

Polychaete worms.

C.U.P. - These Worms Are Superheroes Of The Sea



Description: -

-Polychaete worms.

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All eunicids have a well developed set of jaws and are regarded as scavengers, feeding on both animal and plant matter. In addition to the loan of specimens, the department provides space to accommodate short-term visitors, who provide valuable opportunities for collaboration. There are about 10,000 species of polychaetes, with great diversity in lifestyles and adaptations.

Polynoidae

Size: up to 100 mm in length. KAREN OSBORN: It does beg me joy.

World Polychaeta Database

In many polychaetes the fertilised egg hatches into a free-swimming pelagic larva called a trochophore : Note the nerves radiating from the apical organ, one of which connects to the eye before innervating the gut. They are about the size of a small maggot. A lot of the polychaetes, or the bristle worms, are predators, right? The segmental circulation tends to be much modified and reduced in the anterior-most ten or so segments, and in the most posterior segments.

Polychaetes

There may be additional data which may prove valuable to such analyses. While they show some resemblance to marine , especially the Tubificidae, they share more characters with the polychaetes Fig. So, today the term 'polychaetes' is widely used rather than the term 'Annelida' and this group includes all the traditional polychaete families as well as the leeches, earthworms, and the siboglinids, sometimes known as 'beard worms'.

Polychaete Key

H, Family Chaetopteridae, Mesochaetopterus sp. Note the following structures: Prototroch - an equatorial band of beating cilia that propels the trochophore through the water.

Polychaete worms

Vessels branching from the DV also form a body-wall plexus which supplies body-wall musculature and absorbs oxygen across the body-wall. Other polychaete species found on the reef are active carnivores, such as the large fire worms commonly found underneath boulders or rubble at the base of reefs.

Polychaete worms reduce waste, provide food in aquaculture « Global Aquaculture Advocate

Once mature, the gametes are shed into the surrounding water through ducts or openings that vary between species, or in some cases by the complete rupture of the body wall and subsequent death of the adult.

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Some have even evolved cutaneous invaginations for aerial gas exchange.

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