

## Establishing a food web model for coastal Antarctic benthic communities: a case study from the Vestfold Hills

C. L. Gillies<sup>1,2,3,\*</sup>, J. S. Stark<sup>2</sup>, G. J. Johnstone<sup>2</sup>, S. D. A. Smith<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>National Marine Science Centre, Southern Cross University, Coffs Harbour, New South Wales 2450, Australia

<sup>2</sup>Australian Antarctic Division, Channel Hwy, Kingston, Tasmania 7050, Australia

<sup>3</sup>Present address: Earthwatch Australia, 126 Bank St, South Melbourne, Victoria 3205, Australia

\*Email: cgillies@earthwatch.org.au

Marine Ecology Progress Series 478: 27–41 (2013)

**Supplement.** Isotopic and feeding guild data used to compile the food web from Vestfold Hills, East Antarctica

Table S1.  $\delta^{13}\text{C}$  and  $\delta^{15}\text{N}$  values (mean  $\pm$  SD) of carbon sources and consumers from the Vestfold Hills food web. TP: trophic position, PP = primary producer, SF = suspension feeder, DF = deposit feeder, G = grazer, O = omnivore, S/P = scavenger/predator, P = predator

Species	n	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$ (‰)	$\delta^{15}\text{N}$ (‰)	TP	Feeding guild <sup>a</sup>	Tissue analysed	
Chlorophyta	<i>Chaetomorpha</i> sp.	6	$-16.64 \pm 0.36$	5.88 $\pm$ 0.16		PP	Whole frond
	<i>Monostroma</i> sp.	6	-30.13	4.58		PP	Whole frond
Phaeophyceae	<i>Himantothallus grandifolius</i>	6	$-17.47 \pm 1.02$	5.36 $\pm$ 0.49		PP	1 cm <sup>2</sup> sections
Rhodophyta	<i>Iridaea cordata</i>	18	$-17.10 \pm 1.51$	6.80 $\pm$ 0.58		PP	1 cm <sup>2</sup> sections
	<i>Palmaria decipiens</i>	6	$-16.33 \pm 0.30$	6.32 $\pm$ 0.06		PP	Whole frond
	<i>Gymnogongrus</i>	1	-30.13	4.58		PP	Whole frond
Pelagic POM	Pelagic POM	6	$-19.86 \pm 0.51$	5.24 $\pm$ 0.46			Surface tow
Sea ice POM	Sea ice POM	47	$-8.79 \pm 4.30$	2.95 $\pm$ 0.97			Ice core
Sediment POM	Sediment POM	19	$-18.68 \pm 1.18$	5.75 $\pm$ 0.93			Sediment core
Annelida							
Polychaeta	<i>Flabelligera mundata</i>	6	$-15.30 \pm 1.42$	6.54 $\pm$ 0.71	1.9	DF	Body section
	Nephtyidae	3	$-13.52 \pm 1.32$	11.92 $\pm$ 0.24	3.7	P	Body section
	<i>Perkinsiana</i> sp.	8	$-19.27 \pm 0.78$	6.35 $\pm$ 0.54	1.8	SF	Body section
	<i>Polynoidae</i>	2	$-14.42 \pm 1.76$	11.40 $\pm$ 0.74	3.5	P	Body section
	<i>Terrebellidae</i>	2	$-20.61 \pm 0.04$	7.79 $\pm$ 0.41	2.3	DF	Body section
Arthropoda							
Amphipoda	<i>Heterophoxus videns</i>	2	$-14.54 \pm 0.11$	13.76 $\pm$ 1.72	4.3	P	Whole, combined individuals
	<i>Orchomenella franklini</i>	1	-14.7	9.42	2.9	DF	Whole, combined individuals
	<i>Paramoera walkeri</i>	4	$-14.19 \pm 0.48$	7.26 $\pm$ 0.57	2.1	G	Whole, combined individuals

	<i>Tryphosella</i> sp.	3	-17.79 ± 0.15	10.87 ± 0.24	3.3	S/P	Whole individual
	<i>Waldeckia obesa</i>	3	-18.79 ± 0.37	10.23 ± 0.21	3.1	S/P	Whole, combined individuals
Decapoda	<i>Chorismus antarcticus</i>	2	-15.19 ± 1.41	10.80 ± 0.62	3.3	O	Muscle tissue
Isopoda	<i>Cymodocella tubicauda</i>	2	-11.94 ± 0.87	6.14 ± 0.54	1.8	G	Whole, combined individuals
	<i>Glyptonotus antarcticus</i>	9	-13.93 ± 1.76	12.44 ± 0.75	3.9	P	Muscle tissue
	Arcturidae	2	-16.50 ± 0.18	6.10 ± 0.04	1.8	SF	Whole individual
Pycnogonida	<i>Magnammothia gigantea</i>	2	-17.56 ± 0.12	11.93 ± 2.14	3.7	P	Body section–leg
	<i>Nymphon australe</i>	8	-16.97 ± 1.26	10.39 ± 0.72	3.2	P	Whole individual
Tanaidacea	Tanaids	1	-9.09	8.27	2.5	DF	Whole, combined individuals
Chordata							
Ascidiacea	Ascidian sp.1	1	-17.92	2.47	0.5	SF	Body section
	Ascidian sp.10	1	-17.54	3.36	0.8	SF	Body section
	Ascidian sp.11	2	-21.92 ± 2.68	6.88 ± 1.50	2.0	SF	Body section
	Ascidian sp.12	16	-19.41 ± 1.65	7.01 ± 0.72	2.1	SF	Body section
	Ascidian sp.13	1	-15.6	6.5	1.9	SF	Body section
	Ascidian sp.14	3	-22.83 ± 0.39	4.74 ± 0.41	1.3	SF	Body section
	Ascidian sp.2	3	-22.70 ± 0.03	6.10 ± 1.77	1.8	SF	Body section
	Ascidian sp.3	3	-17.50 ± 0.42	6.39 ± 0.22	1.9	SF	Body section
	Ascidian sp.4	1	-19.87	7.45	2.2	SF	Body section
	Ascidian sp.5	1	-20.70	6.70	2.0	SF	Body section
	Ascidian sp.6	1	-20.29	6.47	1.9	SF	Body section
	Ascidian sp.7	1	-19.93	7.11	2.1	SF	Body section
	Ascidian sp.8	1	-19.92	8.34	2.5	SF	Body section
	Ascidian sp.9	1	-15.40 ± 4.78	5.92 ± 1.12	1.7	SF	Body section
	<i>Pyrosoma</i> sp.	1	-19.6	6.77	2.0	SF	Body section
Perciformes	<i>Chinodraco hamatus</i>	13	-22.62 ± 0.51	12.30 ± 0.55	3.8	P	Muscle tissue
	<i>Pagothina borchgrevinki</i>	1	-21.59	10.89	3.4	P	Muscle tissue
	<i>Trematomus bernacchii</i>	131	-16.07 ± 0.92	13.98 ± 0.73	4.4	P	Muscle tissue
	<i>Trematomus newnesi</i>	1	-23.86	9.67	2.9	P	Muscle tissue
Cnidaria							
Anthozoa	<i>Artemidactis victrix</i>	3	-15.97 ± 0.47	12.02 ± 0.65	3.7	P	Epidermis
	<i>Isotealia antarctica</i>	1	-17.07	12.84	4.0	P	Epidermis
	<i>Stomphia selaginella</i>	5	-17.16 ± 0.97	11.56 ± 0.88	3.6	P	Epidermis
	<i>Urticinopsis antarctica</i>	11	-15.64 ± 1.38	11.53 ± 0.97	3.6	P	Epidermis
	Pennatulacea	2	-20.76 ± 0.42	8.79 ± 0.59	2.7	SF	Body section
Hydrozoa	Hydroid sp.1	3	-21.98 ± 0.05	6.16 ± 0.28	1.8	SF	Colony section
	Hydroid sp.2	4	-21.95 ± 0.61	6.27 ± 0.19	1.8	SF	Colony section
Echinodermata							
Asteroidea	<i>Aconodaster</i> cf. <i>hodgsoni</i>	3	-11.22 ± 0.91	11.72 ± 0.94	3.6	P	Epidermis

	<i>Aconodaster cf. conspicuus</i>	3	-15.02 ± 1.40	10.36 ± 0.72	3.2	P	Epidermis
	<i>Diplasterias brucei</i>	11	-13.32 ± 1.49	10.14 ± 0.66	3.1	S/P	Epidermis
	<i>Odontaster validus</i>	9	-11.32 ± 2.61	11.93 ± 0.54	3.7	O	Epidermis
	<i>Perkinaster aurorae</i>	3	-15.07 ± 1.50	11.68 ± 0.46	3.6	P	Epidermis
	<i>Perkinaster cf. fuscus antarcticus</i>	7	-14.47 ± 1.31	10.91 ± 0.81	3.4	S/P	Epidermis
	<i>Perkinaster cf. fuscus antarcticus</i> (juv)	4	-11.93 ± 1.07	10.41 ± 0.30	3.2	S/P	Epidermis
Echinoidea	<i>Sterechinus neumayeri</i>	12	-12.36 ± 1.42	10.40 ± 0.38	3.2	O	Peristomal membrane
Holothuroidea	<i>Cucumaria</i> sp.1	3	-19.88 ± 0.59	7.99 ± 0.96	2.4	SF	Body section
	<i>Cucumaria</i> sp.2	1	-21.71	8.08	2.4	SF	Body section
	<i>Cucumaria</i> sp.3	2	-20.36 ± 0.31	9.17 ± 0.51	2.8	SF	Body section
	<i>Cucumaria</i> sp.4	9	-20.92 ± 0.45	8.14 ± 0.53	2.4	SF	Body section
	<i>Cucumaria</i> sp.5	5	-17.39 ± 2.61	8.22 ± 0.92	2.5	SF	Body section
	<i>Cucumaria</i> sp.6	1	-20.16	8.41	2.5	SF	Body section
	<i>Staurocucumis</i> sp.	5	-19.81 ± 0.65	8.96 ± 1.10	2.7	SF	Body section
Ophuroidea	<i>Ophiosparte gigas</i>	3	-14.90 ± 1.31	9.89 ± 0.75	3.0	P	Epidermis
	<i>Ophiura crassa</i>	3	-15.81 ± 1.09	9.98 ± 0.60	3.0	DF	Epidermis
Mollusca							
Bivalvia	<i>Adamussium colbecki</i>	2	-19.69 ± 0.23	6.80 ± 0.26	2.0	SF	Muscle tissue
	<i>Laternula elliptica</i>	8	-19.71 ± 0.36	6.83 ± 0.25	2.0	SF	Muscle tissue
Gastropoda	<i>Amauropsis rossiana</i>	4	-19.10 ± 0.18	8.10 ± 0.14	2.4	P	Muscle tissue
	<i>Marseniopsis mollis</i>	8	-20.17 ± 0.56	9.68 ± 0.51	3.0	P	Muscle tissue
	<i>Neobuccinum eatoni</i>	18	-15.16 ± 1.24	12.07 ± 0.55	3.7	P	Muscle tissue
	<i>Trophon longstaffi</i>	5	-17.87 ± 0.59	9.68 ± 0.36	3.0	P	Muscle tissue
	<i>Doris kerguelensis</i>	9	-13.74 ± 1.28	10.87 ± 0.66	3.3	P	Muscle tissue
	<i>Tritonia challengeriana</i>	1	-20.14	11.32	3.5	P	Muscle tissue
	Opisthobranchia	4	-10.46 ± 0.26	9.36 ± 0.40	2.8	DF	Muscle tissue
Nemertea							
	<i>Parborlasia corrugatus</i>	5	-16.19 ± 0.56	11.16 ± 0.15	3.4	S/P	Body section
Porifera							
Demospongia	<i>Homaxinella</i> sp.	5	-20.30 ± 0.57	6.66 ± 0.47	1.9	SF	Body section
	<i>Isodictya</i> sp.	4	-19.12 ± 0.86	7.14 ± 0.44	2.1	SF	Body section
	<i>Kirkpatrickia</i> sp.	1	-19.09	6.88	2.0	SF	Body section
	<i>Sphaerotylus</i> sp.	2	-19.29 ± 0.81	5.92 ± 1.41	1.7	SF	Body section
	Porifera sp.1	1	-20.81	6.85	2.0	SF	Body section
	Porifera sp.2	3	-18.60 ± 0.41	7.95 ± 1.19	2.4	SF	Body section
	Porifera sp.3	1	-20.00	6.13	1.8	SF	Body section
	Porifera sp.4	1	-20.42	6.72	2.0	SF	Body section
	Porifera sp.5	1	-18.45	5.98	1.7	SF	Body section
	Porifera sp.6	1	-20.07	6.71	2.0	SF	Body section
	Porifera sp.7	2	-19.93 ± 0.60	7.90 ± 0.84	2.4	SF	Body section
	Porifera sp.8	3	-20.74 ± 0.49	7.63 ± 0.51	2.3	SF	Body section

<sup>a</sup>See Table S2 for studies of feeding guilds

Table S2. References used to identify feeding guilds listed in Table S1 and the main article

Taxonomic group	Studies of feeding guilds
Amphipoda	<p>Dauby P, Scailteur Y, De Broyer C (2001) Trophic diversity within the eastern Weddell Sea amphipod community. <i>Hydrobiologia</i> 443:69–86</p> <p>Nyssen F, Brey T, Lepoint G, Bouquegneau J-M, De Broyer C, Dauby P (2002) A stable isotope approach to the eastern Weddell Sea trophic web: focus on benthic amphipods. <i>Polar Biol</i> 25:280–287</p> <p>Oliver JS, Slattery PN (1985) Effects of crustacean predators on species composition and population structure of soft-bodied infauna from McMurdo Sound, Antarctica. <i>Ophelia</i> 24:155–175</p> <p>Rakusa-Suszczewski S (1972) The biology of <i>Paramoera walkerii</i> Stebbing (Amphipoda) and the Antarctic sub-fast ice community <i>Pol Arch Hydrobiol</i> 19:11–36</p>
Anthozoa	–
Asciacea	–
Asteroidea	McClintock JB (1994) Trophic biology of Antarctic shallow-water echinoderms. <i>Mar Ecol Prog Ser</i> 111:191–202
Bivalvia	<p>Ahn I (1997) Feeding ecology of the Antarctic lamellibranch <i>Laternula elliptica</i> (Laternulidae) in Marian Cove and vicinity King George Island, during one austral summer. In: Battaglia B, Valencia J, Walton DWH (eds) <i>Antarctic communities: species structure and survival</i>. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, p 142–15</p> <p>Norkko A, Thrush SF, Cummings V, Gibbs HL, Andrew N, Norkko J, Schwarz A-M (2007) Trophic structure of coastal Antarctic food webs associated with changes in sea ice and food supply. <i>Ecology</i> 88:2810–2820</p>
Cnidaria	<p>Amsler CD, McClintock JB, Baker BJ (1999) An Antarctic feeding triangle: defensive interactions between macroalgae, sea urchins, and sea anemones. <i>Mar Ecol Prog Ser</i> 183:105–114</p> <p>Dayton PK, Robilliard GA, Paine RT (1970) Benthic faunal zonation as a result of Anchor Ice at McMurdo Sound, Antarctica. In: Holdgate M (ed) <i>Antarctic ecology, Book 1</i>. Academic Press, London, p 244–258</p> <p>Present study</p>
Decapoda	Present study
Echinoidea	<p>McClintock JB (1994) Trophic biology of Antarctic shallow-water echinoderms. <i>Mar Ecol Prog Ser</i> 111:191–202</p> <p>Norkko A, Thrush SF, Cummings V, Gibbs HL, Andrew N, Norkko J, Schwarz A-M (2007) Trophic structure of coastal Antarctic food webs associated with changes in sea ice and food supply. <i>Ecology</i> 88:2810–2820</p> <p>Pearse JS, Giese AC (1966) Food, reproduction and organic constitution of the Antarctic echinoid <i>Sterechinus neumayeri</i> (Meissner). <i>Biol Bull</i> 130:387–401</p>
Gastropoda	<p>Dayton PK, Robilliard GA, Paine RT (1970) Benthic faunal zonation as a result of Anchor Ice at McMurdo Sound, Antarctica. In: Holdgate M (ed) <i>Antarctic ecology, Book 1</i>. Academic Press, London, p 244–258</p> <p>Norkko A, Thrush SF, Cummings V, Gibbs HL, Andrew N, Norkko J, Schwarz A-M (2007) Trophic structure of coastal Antarctic food webs associated with changes in sea ice and food supply. <i>Ecology</i> 88:2810–2820</p> <p>Wägele H (1989) Diet of some Antarctic nudibranchs (Gastropoda, Opisthobranchia, Nudibranchia). <i>Mar Biol</i> 100:439–441</p> <p>Present study</p>
Holothuroidea	Gillies CL, Stark JS, Johnstone GJ, Smith SDA (2012) Carbon flow and trophic structure of an Antarctic coastal benthic community as determined by $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ . <i>Est Coast Shelf Sci</i> 97:44–57

	Gutt J (1991) On the distribution and ecology of holothurians in the Weddell Sea (Antarctica). <i>Polar Biol</i> 11:145–155
	McClintock JB (1994) Trophic biology of Antarctic shallow-water echinoderms. <i>Mar Ecol Prog Ser</i> 111:191–202
Hydrozoa	–
Isopoda	Dearborn JH (1967) Food and reproduction of <i>Glyptonotus antarcticus</i> (Crustacea: Isopoda) at McMurdo Sound, Antarctica. <i>T Roy Soc NZ</i> 8:163–168
	Gillies CL, Stark JS, Johnstone GJ, Smith SDA (2012) Carbon flow and trophic structure of an Antarctic coastal benthic community as determined by $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ . <i>Est Coast Shelf Sci</i> 97:44–57
Nemertea	Corbisier T, Petti MV, Skowronski RP, Brito TS (2004) Trophic relationships in the nearshore zone of Martel Inlet (King George Island, Antarctica): $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ stable-isotope analysis. <i>Polar Biol</i> 27:75–82
	Smale DA, Barnes DKA, Fraser KPP, Mann PJ, Brown MP (2007) Scavenging in Antarctica: Intense variation between sites and seasons in shallow benthic necrophagy. <i>J Exp Mar Biol Ecol</i> 349:405–417
Ophiuroidea	Dearborn JH, Hendler G, Edwards KC (1996) The diet of <i>Ophiosparte gigas</i> (Echinodermata: Ophiuroidea) along the Antarctic Peninsula, with comments on its taxonomic status. <i>Polar Biol</i> 16:309–320
	Lane A, Riddle MJ (2004) Toxicity of dispersed and undispersed diesel in sediments to the Antarctic Ophiuroid <i>Ophiura crassa</i> . <i>Australas J Ecotoxicol</i> 10:115–121
	McClintock JB (1994) Trophic biology of Antarctic shallow-water echinoderms. <i>Mar Ecol Prog Ser</i> 111:191–202
Perciformes	Casaux R, Barrera-Oro E, Baroni A, Ramón A (2003) Ecology of inshore nototheniid fish from the Danco Coast, Antarctic Peninsula. <i>Polar Biol</i> 26:157–165
	Foster BA, Montgomery JC (1993) Planktivory in benthic nototheniid fish in McMurdo Sound, Antarctica. <i>Environ Biol Fishes</i> 36:313–318
	Kiest KA (1993) A relationship of diet to prey abundance and the foraging behaviour of <i>Trematomus bernacchii</i> . <i>Polar Biol</i> 13:291–296
	La Mesa M, Dalú M, Vacchi M (2004) Trophic ecology of the emerald notothen <i>Trematomus bernacchii</i> (Pisces, Nototheniidae) from Terra Nova Bay, Ross Sea, Antarctica. <i>Polar Biol</i> 27:721–728
	Williams R (1988) The inshore marine fishes of the Vestfold Hills region, Antarctica. <i>Hydrobiologia</i> 165:161–167
Polychaeta	Fauchald K, Jumars PA (1979) The diet of worms: a study of polychaete feeding guilds. <i>Oceanogr Mar Biol Annu Rev</i> 17:193–284
Porifera	–
Pycnogonida	Gillies CL, Stark JS, Johnstone GJ, Smith SDA (2012) Carbon flow and trophic structure of an Antarctic coastal benthic community as determined by $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ . <i>Est Coast Shelf Sci</i> 97:44–57
	Present study
Tanaidacea	Blazewicz-Paszkowycz M, Ligowski R (2002) Diatoms as food source indicator for some Antarctic Cumacea and Tanaidacea (Crustacea). <i>Antarct Sci</i> 14:11–15
	Gillies CL, Stark JS, Johnstone GJ, Smith SDA (2012) Carbon flow and trophic structure of an Antarctic coastal benthic community as determined by $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ and $\delta^{15}\text{N}$ . <i>Est Coast Shelf Sci</i> 97:44–57
	Oliver JS, Slattery PN (1985) Effects of crustacean predators on species composition and population structure of soft-bodied infauna from McMurdo Sound, Antarctica. <i>Ophelia</i> 24:155–175

---