



Scientists Discover 28 Potential New Species Off Argentina's Coast

Description

A deep-sea expedition off the coast of Argentina has uncovered a surprisingly diverse marine ecosystem, revealing dozens of possible new species and rare sightings. What began as a focused study of cold seeps quickly expanded to show a complex and rich web of life.

Scientists from the Schmidt Ocean Institute led this mission aboard the research vessel Falkor (too). They aimed to explore cold seeps, areas in the deep ocean where chemical emissions support unique microbial communities that serve as the foundation for various ecosystems.

The team discovered only one active seep site. However, they encountered an unexpected density and variety of marine life across a larger area, indicating that these ecosystems may extend well beyond isolated chemical hotspots.

The level of biodiversity recorded during the expedition surprised researchers. Instead of clusters forming around seep zones, organisms were distributed over a much wider section of the seafloor. Chief scientist María Emilia Bravo expressed excitement about the findings, highlighting the need for further exploration of Argentina's deep-sea life.

The expedition also identified 28 potential new species, including sea snails and sea urchins, many found in a massive coral reef nearly as large as Vatican City. This reef demonstrates how complex ecosystems can thrive in deep, dark waters.

Additionally, the team captured images of the rare phantom jellyfish, which can grow as long as a school bus, and documented Argentina's first deep-sea whale fall, where a whale's remains now support various marine organisms.

Looking ahead, researchers anticipate that ongoing studies will deepen our understanding of deep-sea biodiversity.

Vocabulary List:

1. **expedition** //,ɛkspə'dɪʃən// (noun): a long trip for study or exploration
2. **ecosystem** //i'kɒs,ɪstəm// (noun): all the plants and animals in one area
3. **seep** //si:p// (noun): a place where gas or liquid slowly comes out
4. **microbial** //maɪ'krɒʊbiəl// (adjective): related to very small living things called microbes
5. **biodiversity** //baɪoʊdaɪ'vɜrsɪti// (noun): many different kinds of life in one place
6. **density** //dɛnsɪti// (noun): how much of something is in an area



Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. What did the deep-sea expedition off the coast of Argentina uncover?
Option: A single new species
Option: A surprisingly diverse marine ecosystem
Option: Only cold seep areas
Option: No new findings
2. Which research vessel was used during the expedition?
Option: Nautilus
Option: Falkor
Option: Endeavor
Option: Challenger
3. How many potential new species did the team identify?
Option: 10
Option: 28
Option: 15
Option: 5
4. What was a key focus of the mission conducted by the Schmidt Ocean Institute?
Option: Exploring coral reefs
Option: Studying cold seeps
Option: Mapping the ocean floor
Option: Identifying new shipping routes
5. What type of marine creature was documented as growing as long as a school bus?
Option: Giant squid
Option: Phantom jellyfish
Option: Blue whale
Option: Hammerhead shark
6. What significant ecosystem was nearly as large as Vatican City?
Option: A coral reef



- Option: A kelp forest
- Option: A mangrove swamp
- Option: An estuary

True-False

- 7. The expedition only found a few species in isolated areas.
- 8. The Schmidt Ocean Institute led the mission exploring cold seeps.
- 9. Chief scientist María Emilia Bravo was not excited about the findings.
- 10. The rare phantom jellyfish is known to be very small.
- 11. Researchers expect ongoing studies to enhance understanding of deep-sea biodiversity.
- 12. The expedition documented a deep-sea whale fall in Argentina.

Gap-Fill

- 13. The deep-sea expedition revealed dozens of possible new species and rare _____ sightings.
- 14. The team discovered only one active seep site but encountered an unexpected _____ of marine life.
- 15. The coral reef identified during the expedition was nearly as large as _____ City.
- 16. Scientists primarily aimed to explore cold seeps, which support unique microbial _____ that serve as a foundation for ecosystems.
- 17. The expedition documented Argentina's first deep-sea _____ fall.
- 18. There is a need for further exploration of Argentina's deep-sea _____ according to



María Emilia Bravo.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. A surprisingly diverse marine ecosystem 2. Falkor 3. 28 4. Studying cold seeps 5. Phantom jellyfish 6. A coral reef

True-False: 7. False 8. True 9. False 10. False 11. True 12. True

Gap-Fill: 13. sightings 14. density 15. Vatican 16. communities 17. whale 18. life

Vocabulary quizzes

Multiple Choice (Select the Correct answer for each question.)

1. What factor is often challenged during a meteor shower?

Option: Visibility

Option: Altitude

Option: Density

Option: Ecosystem

2. Which type of system is designed for flexibility and durability?

Option: Robotic

Option: Reusable

Option: Certified

Option: Simulated

3. What type of mission may involve exploring new ecosystems?

Option: Breakthrough

Option: Intervention

Option: Expedition

Option: Transfer

4. Which term refers to the variety of life in a particular ecosystem?

Option: Ecosystem

Option: Breakthrough

Option: Biodiversity

Option: Microbial

5. Which technology is often used to simulate complex biological interactions?

Option: Robotic



- Option: Supercomputer
- Option: Genome
- Option: Anomaly

6. What type of organisms are often involved in the microbial ecosystem?

- Option: Robotic
- Option: Microscopic
- Option: Fragile
- Option: Reusable

7. What is often required to combat environmental anomalies?

- Option: Visibility
- Option: Intervention
- Option: Transfer
- Option: Deadline

8. Which structure contains the complete genetic information of an organism?

- Option: Microbial
- Option: Genome
- Option: Enzyme
- Option: Altitude

9. What process involves water infiltrating through small openings?

- Option: Seep
- Option: Transfer
- Option: Breakthrough
- Option: Fragment

10. What is often a critical point that can jeopardize a project?

- Option: Ecosystem
- Option: Fragment
- Option: Deadline
- Option: Robotic

Gap-Fill (Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

11. The spacecraft needed to _____ at the station to complete the transfer.

12. The fireball broke apart into several _____ that fell to the ground.

13. Operating the robotic system at high altitude can be very _____.



14. The _____ of microbial life can indicate the health of an ecosystem.
15. Scientists studied the strange _____ detected in the data.
16. Researchers discovered a new _____ that could improve biological processes.
17. The project required _____ to adapt to unforeseen challenges.
18. A significant _____ in technology was achieved during the research phase.
19. The study focused on _____ interactions within the soil environment.
20. The system was built to be _____ under various operational conditions.

Matching Sentences (Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list.)

21. The sky was illuminated by a fireball that streaked across the night.
22. Fog often reduces visibility for drivers on the road.
23. Robotic systems are increasingly used in manufacturing for their precision.
24. The product was certified for safety and effectiveness before it could be sold.
25. Emergency intervention may be necessary in the event of a natural disaster.
26. The rainforest is a rich ecosystem known for its high levels of biodiversity.
27. An ecosystem consists of all living and non-living things in a particular environment.
28. The density of the population influences urban planning and resource management.
29. The scientist ran a simulated experiment to predict the outcome.
30. The research team utilized a supercomputer to analyze vast amounts of data.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. Visibility 2. Robotic 3. Expedition 4. Biodiversity 5. Supercomputer 6. Microscopic
7. Intervention 8. Genome 9. Seep 10. Deadline

Gap-Fill: 11. dock 12. fragments 13. challenging 14. density 15. anomaly 16. enzyme 17. flexibility
18. breakthrough



19. microbial 20. robust

Matching sentence: 1. fireball 2. visibility 3. robotic 4. certified 5. intervention 6. biodiversity 7. ecosystem
8. density 9. simulated 10. supercomputer

CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL4

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Date Created

2026/03/20

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