

Teredo

Classification

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Mollusca

Class: Bivalvia

Order: Myoida

Family: Teredinidae

Genus: *Teredo*



For Further details [link](#)

Habit and habitat

Wood Boring: The most distinctive behavior of Teredo is their ability to bore into wood. They use the two small valves of their shells at the anterior (front) end to dig and create tunnels within the wood.

Tunnel Living: The bivalves live inside these self-made, calcareous (limestone-like) tunnels that they line with a mucus.

Wood: Teredo are found within almost any submerged wooden material, including driftwood, docks, ships, and pilings.

Water Type: They thrive in both freshwater and saltwater environments but are primarily marine, with a documented salinity tolerance ranging from 5 to 35 parts per thousand.

Characteristics

- While *T. navalis* looks like a brown worm on the outside, it is actually a bivalve. Its head is covered with two white, tri-lobed shells used to bore into wood. The shells are up to 2 cm long and have concentric ridges.
- Inside the shell is a hook-like process called a styloid apophysis. The foot is also at the anterior end. At the posterior end are two siphons: incurrent and excurrent. The former is used for respiration and feeding while the latter is where waste and sperm or larvae exit.
- Paddle-like pallets act as a lid to cover the siphons when not in use. Naval shipworms are about 20 cm in length but can range from 1.5 to 58 cm. They are 1 cm in diameter. Calcareous coverings are secreted from their mantles that coat the burrows they make. Male and female adults cannot be distinguished externally.
- *Teredo navalis* takes about five weeks to develop from eggs to metamorphosing larvae. They spend half of this time in the mother's gill chamber until they are released into the water as free-swimming larvae.
- As the larvae develop, they transition from being small and white to large and dark gray. Fertilized eggs develop into cilia-covered larvae, referred to as trochophores.
- Reproduction typically occurs in the summer months when temperatures reach 15 degrees Celsius. Females spawn 3 to 4 times per season, each time releasing 1 to 5 million larvae. *Teredo navalis* embryos spend the first 2 to 3 weeks in the mother's gill chamber.