Identifying Common North Atlantic Wood-boring Bivalves

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TEREDINIDAE
(Shipworms) 3 species; Highly invasive
Depth: shallow
BOREHOLE Lining: Present in all;
Smooth except at very end; tends to follow
the wood grain.

Teredinid animals:

Teredinids (Above): siphons very
long, uniform; contain gills and organs

From Voight 2015

XYLOPHAGAIDAE
(Deep-sea borers) 3 species; Native
Depth: 5 to over 1000 m
BOREHOLE Lining: Present only in
Xyloredo spp.; Ridged; tends to cross the
wood grain.

Xylophagaid animals:

Xylophagaid: Xyloredo
(below) siphon with
distinct parts

Photos R. Shipway

From Voight 2015
VALVE Identification

**TEREDINIDS**: inner valves with apophysis & usually a bigger Posterior Adductor Scar (PAS) (Left).

Teredinid species are identified by their pallets. Boreholes, valves & bodies do not aid in species identification.

**XYLOPHAGAIDS**: inner valves lack an apophysis; typically less angular.

Xylophagainid species are identified by differences in siphons, valves & mesoplax.

Species in the North Atlantic

Below are the three teredinid species; three xylophagaid species are to the right.

**Psiloteredo megotara**
From Turner 1966 p. 181

**Nototeredo norvagica**
From Turner 1966 p. 178

**Teredo navalis**
From Turner 1966 p. 183
This species lacks concamerations at end of borehole lining (R. Shipway pers. comm.)

**Xylophaga praestans** Note strong ridges & odd siphon; mm increments shown. Photo: R. Shipway

**Xylophaga dorsalis** Note siphon with short Excurrent white spots (g) laterally, fringe distally; incurrent siphon Opening at siphon tip. Mesoplax large two-ply (Modified from Romano et al. 2014).

**Xyloredo** (Dorsal view) identified by two-parted siphon (reverse), tiny mesoplax seen here, & ridged borehole lining. Species in genus are confused. Photo: R. Shipway.

References


See also: https://naturalhistory.museumwales.ac.uk/BritishBivalves/home.php