

THE GENUS *NEIDIUM* IN THE ANTARCTIC REGION

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A survey of the records for the genus *Neidium* indicates that less than 20 taxa have been reported from the Antarctic and Subantarctic suggesting that *Neidium* species are relatively rare or poorly reported. The recorded biogeographic distribution of this genus is in the Maritime and subantarctic region from James Ross Island to the Crozet Archipelago. *Neidium aubertii* Manguin, and two new potential species are reported here. The three taxa are characterized by linear to linear-lanceolate valves with rostrate to capitate apices, a single prominent longitudinal canal along the valve margins, and lacinia at the distal raphe fissures. The proximal raphe fissures have varying degrees of deflection towards the margins. Two taxa, *Neidium aubertii* and *Neidium* sp.1 have chambered areolae, similar in structure to *Neidium bisulcatum* Lagerstedt, while *Neidium* sp.2. has a simple poroid areola structure covered internally by a fine hymen, similar to *Neidium affine* Ehrenberg. *Neidium aubertii* was the most common of these taxa and is similar to *Neidium bisulcatum* which has also been reported (without specimen verification) from the Subantarctic. *Neidium aubertii* has larger longitudinal canals, and the valve apices are rostrate, not broadly rounded like *N. bisulcatum*. *Neidium* sp.1 has a linear valve with rostrate apices. The longitudinal canal has a row of small round poroid opening on the valve face and another row on the mantle. Areolae have small rounded external foramina, which open into a chamber within the wall. These chambers have an internal hymen cover. In LM, the valve has a similarity outline to *Neidium kozlowi* Mereschkowsky, but the areolae are denser, have smaller more simple external foramina, and the striae are not oblique as observed in *N. kozlowi*. *Neidium* sp. 2 has a linear to weakly concave valve with capitate apices. The areolae are poroid with round external openings and an internal opening covered by a hymen. The longitudinal canal has a row of small pores opening onto the valve face close to the striae. Although similar in outline to *Neidium affine* var. *longiceps* (Gregory) Cleve, *Neidium* sp. 2 has only one longitudinal canal (i.e. not related to *Neidium affine*) and the apices are capitate. The presentation here of three distinct *Neidium* taxa from the Maritime Antarctic and Subantarctica suggests that a more thorough investigation of this genus from the Antarctic region is required.