With nearly 19 million specimens, the United States Antarctic Program (USAP) collection at the National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) is the most valuable tool we have for the study of Antarctic and Subantarctic marine invertebrates. The collection includes type and non-type material dating back to the U.S. Exploring Expedition of 1838-1842. In 2007, the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of Natural History and the National Science Foundation’s Office of Polar Programs launched a renewed cooperative agreement to transform the USAP collections and associated data into a modern resource that is easily available to a wide and diverse audience (e.g., general public, policy makers, conservation groups) as well as making it a useful tool for scholars.

AntIZ serves images, literature references and descriptions, maps or other data concerning any Antarctic invertebrate animal represented in the NMNH collections. Specimens from the Southern Ocean and nearby waters, as far North as 30° S, are included. See History and Current Activities to read about early Antarctic research expeditions as well as our latest visiting scientists and their work with the collection. Any species or higher taxon in our collections may be looked up through Biodiversity, the various ice-breaking research vessels or expeditions through Station Data, or the vast literature on the Antarctic under Bibliography.

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