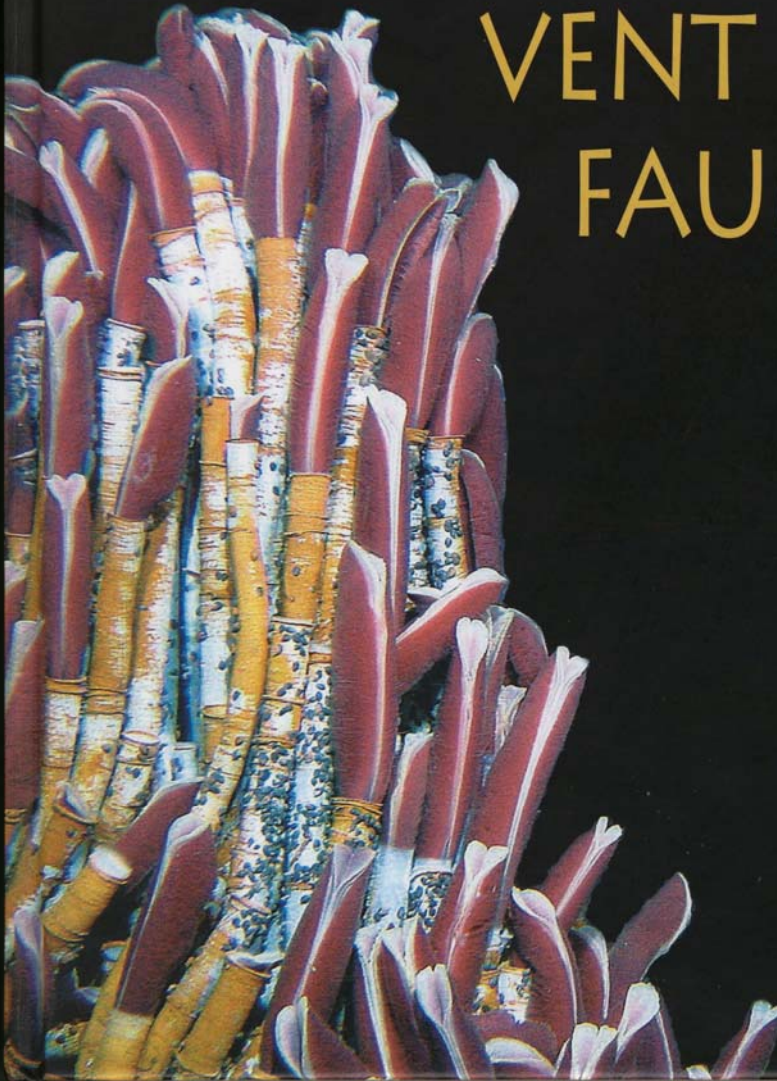


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HANDBOOK OF DEEP-SEA HYDROTHERMAL VENT FAUNA



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Handbook of Deep-Sea Hydrothermal Vent Fauna

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The second extensively expanded edition of the "Handbook of Deep-Sea Hydrothermal Vent Fauna" gives an overview of our current knowledge on the animals living at hydrothermal vents. The discovery of hydrothermal vents and progresses made during almost 30 years are outlined. A brief introduction is given on hydrothermal vent meiofauna and parasites. Geographic maps and a table of mid-ocean ridges and back-arc basins with the major known hydrothermal vent fields, their location and depth range and the most prominent vent sites are provided. Higher taxa are presented individually with information on the current taxonomic and biogeographic status, the number of species described, recommendations for fixation, and schematic drawings, which aim to help non-specialists to identify the animals. 86 authors contributed with their expertise to create a comprehensive database on animals living at hydrothermal vents, which contains information on the morphology, biology, and geographic distribution of more than 500 currently described species belonging to one protist and 12 animal phyla. It comprises also the largest collection of more than 1000 pictures of hydrothermal vent animals taken in situ with submersibles, in vivo after collection, and with various dissection, light, and scanning electron microscopes after fixation and preparations.

Contents

Abstract, Résumé, Zusammenfassung	5
Foreword	6
Remarks	7
Acknowledgements	8
Photo credits	9
Addresses of contributors	10
Milestones in the discovery of hydrothermal-vent faunas	13
Hydrothermal vent meiofauna	27
Hydrothermal vent parasites	29
Species descriptions	
Granuloreticulosa, Foraminifera	31
Porifera	35
Demospongiae	37
Hexactinella	47
Cnidaria	48
Hydrozoa	48
Scyphozoa	64
Anthozoa	65
Mollusca	75
Solenogastres	75
Polyplacophora	80
Gastropoda	82
Patelligastropoda	83
Vetigastropoda	86
Neomphalina	104
Neritimorpha	121
Caenogastropoda	124
Heterobranchia	135
Prosobranchia	138

Nudibranchia	140
Bivalvia	141
Heterodonta	142
Protobranchia	149
Pteriomorpha	150
Cephalopoda	166
Nematoda	173
Acanthocephala	181
Nemertini	182
Annelida	183
Polychaeta	183
Eunicida	186
Phyllodocida	194
Sabellida	253
Scolecida	266
Spionida	272
Terebellida	282
Oligochaeta	297
Arthropoda	298
Arachnida	298
Pycnoidida	301
Crustacea	307
Ostracoda	307
Copepoda	316
Cirripedia	356
Leptostracta	369
Cumacea	370
Tanaidacea	372
Isopoda	379
Amphipoda	382
Ephausidacea	409
Decapoda	410
Caridea	410
Astacidea	432
Anomura	433
Brachyura	455
Echinodermata	475
Crinozoa	475
Asteroidea	477
Echinoidea	479
Holothuroidea	480
Ophiuroidea	481
Chaethognatha	486
Hemichordata, Enteropneusta	487
Chordata	489
Chondrichthyes	489
Osteichthyes	493
Major known deep-sea hydrothermal vent fields	513
Abbreviations, ridges, back-arc basins and vent fields	518
Species list	519
Schematic drawings of major taxa	532
Genus index	542
Author index	544