CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Deep-sea hydrothermal vent tube worm

Riftia pachyptila

Riftia pachyptila grows up to two metres tall in dense thickets around hydrothermal vents on the East Pacific Rise, and as an adult it has no mouth, no gut and no anus. It is fed entirely by billions…

Quick facts

Classification: Invertebrate
Family: Siboglinidae
Habitat: Deep-sea hydrothermal vents
Diet: Chemosynthetic symbiont-dependent
Conservation status: Least Concern
Lifespan: 2-5 years
Weight: Up to 1.6 kg
Scientific name: Riftia pachyptila

Did you know?

- Tube worms can survive in total darkness at temperatures near freezing, except for the immediate vicinity of the vent where water can exceed 350°C, t…
- Because vent fields are ephemeral, Riftia has to colonise new ones fast, and its larvae can survive drifting for weeks to find a vent that may be hun…

What I learned

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