

BACTERIA DEFEND CARRION FROM SCAVENGERS

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SUPPLEMENT

Failed sediment trap

Another interesting *Beggiatoa/Thioploca*-like observation came from a failed sediment trap effort in which fish went into the traps and died, resulting in *Beggiatoa/Thioploca*-like growth inside the clear tube. When we retrieved the disgusting hydrogen sulfide laden mess and uncapped the tube, we observed bacterial growth inside the tube, but not where the tape at been (Appendix S1 Figure 1). The tubes had been placed at about 35 m depth in December 1974, where it is very dark, and presumably the dead fish and bacterial growth had occurred during the austral winter when there is virtually no light. We cannot explain this observation, but Marshall Bowles (personal communication) suggested that that the tape itself had an antimicrobial chemical that leached through the tube. If this is true it implies that even small levels of pollutants can impact benthic habitats.



Supplement Figure 1. Clear plastic tubes with microbial growth inside the tube (top panel) but not underneath the tape that was on the outside of the tube (bottom panel).