

First report in the North Atlantic, *Melanochlamys diomedea* on a transoceanic journey.

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#### Abstract:

The occurrence of the mollusc *Melanochlamys diomedea* was confirmed for the first time in the North Atlantic in Iceland in autumn 2023. The genus *Melanochlamys* is mostly found in the Indo-Pacific basin and the Pacific Ocean, with only one species known to exist across the Madeira Islands, Canary Islands and Cape Verde in the Atlantic. The known distribution range of *M. diomedea* extends from Alaska to California on the Pacific side of North America, where it typically inhabits sandy muddy areas of the littoral, in the tidal zone and below. In Iceland *M. diomedea* is found in similar habitats in the Southwest and West. How the species arrived to Iceland is not known but in recent decades the majority of introduced species appear to have been transported via ships, either as part of biofouling or through ballast water.