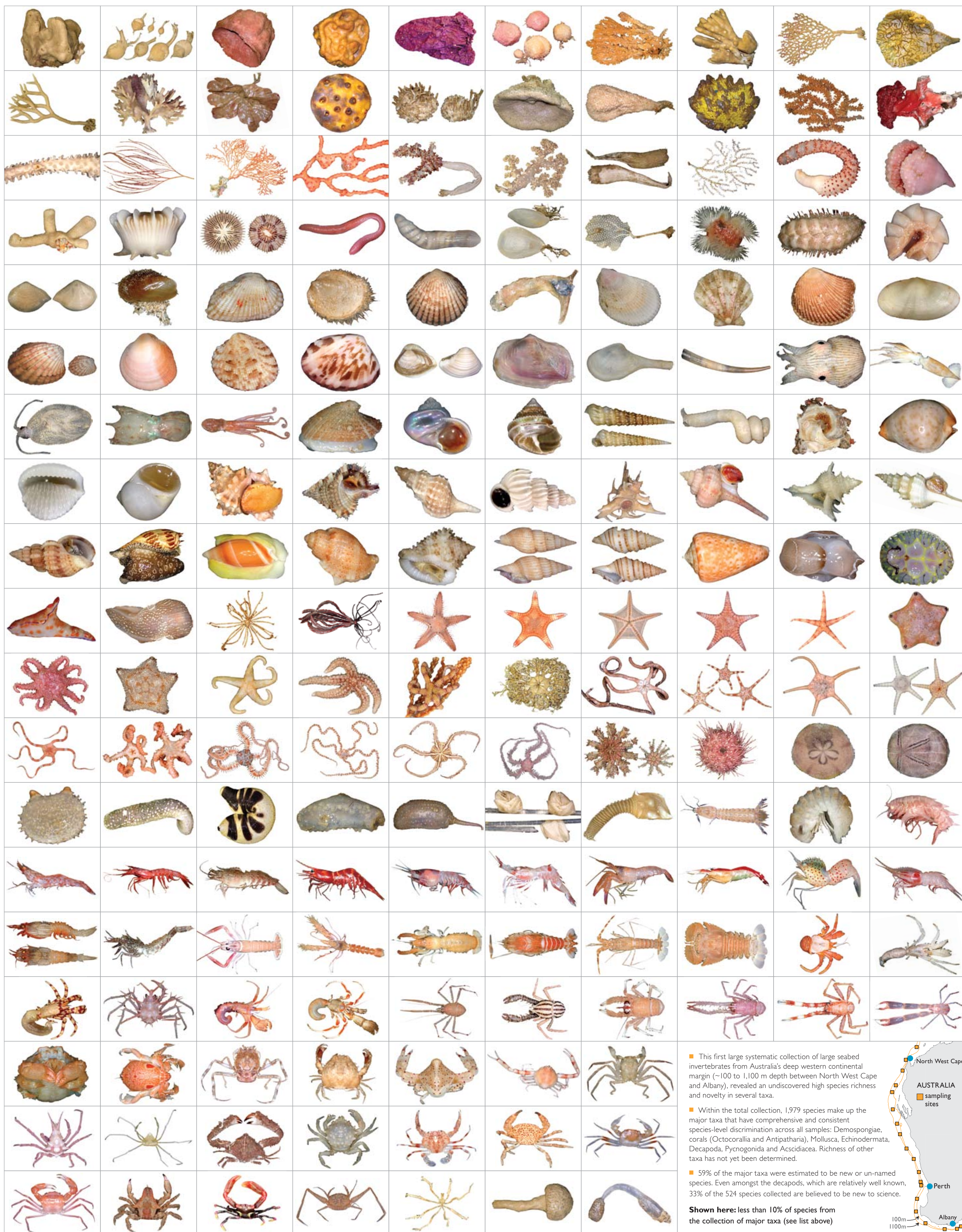


biodiversity

in western Australia's deep sea

National Research
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Wealth from Oceans



■ This first large systematic collection of large seabed invertebrates from Australia's deep western continental margin (~100 to 1,100 m depth between North West Cape and Albany), revealed an undiscovered high species richness and novelty in several taxa.

■ Within the total collection, 1,979 species make up the major taxa that have comprehensive and consistent species-level discrimination across all samples: Demospongiae, corals (Octocorallia and Antipatharia), Mollusca, Echinodermata, Decapoda, Pycnogonida and Ascidiacea. Richness of other taxa has not yet been determined.

■ 59% of the major taxa were estimated to be new or un-named species. Even amongst the decapods, which are relatively well known, 33% of the 524 species collected are believed to be new to science.

Shown here: less than 10% of species from the collection of major taxa (see list above)

