

**Publication of a scientific paper on a poorly studied marine organism with a significant presence in national coastal waters, the vermetid worm *Vermetus triquetrus*, by IPMA, I.P.'s researchers André Breves, Carlos Cardoso, Cláudia Afonso, Joana Matos, Jorge Lobo-Arteaga, Cátia Bartilotti, Sabrina Sales, Sónia Pedro, and Narcisa M. Bandarra, within the scope of the MAR2030 GENEMARE\_PORTUGAL project, which aims to implement a biological repository of marine biodiversity in Portuguese waters, a blue biobank for the future**

Researchers from IPMA, IP, André Breves, Carlos Cardoso, Cláudia Afonso, Joana Matos, Jorge Lobo-Arteaga, Cátia Bartilotti, Sabrina Sales, Sónia Pedro, and Narcisa M. Bandarra published a pioneering paper on a sessile gastropod that forms reefs and has a significant presence on the national coast (in this case, specimens from the Mira Estuary were studied), the vermetid *Vermetus triquetrus* (see Image 1). The paper focused on aspects of the body's biochemical composition and its biological activity (antioxidant and anti-inflammatory activities) and differentiated between the two main anatomical units of the body: the visceral mass and the head-foot part.

The paper entitled “Unveiling the Hidden Biotechnological Potential of the Vermetid Gastropod *Vermetus triquetrus*: Insights into an Unexplored Marine Resource” was published on May 28<sup>th</sup> in the prestigious scientific journal *Marine Biotechnology*, and has generated considerable interest and significant impact due to the novelty of a study on this organism. The interest in the study was further reinforced by its results, which showed high levels of biological activity and identified *V. triquetrus* as a source of polyphenolic compounds, especially in the visceral mass. The paper is open access and can be found here:

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10126-026-10632-3>

IPMA researchers concluded that, given the quantified levels of biological activity and the components present, not only is further study of the biochemical composition and refinement of the fractions obtained from the biomass justified, but it is also possible to explore the valorisation and future applications of these fractions in fields such as nutraceuticals, cosmetics, or even pharmaceuticals.

This study is part of a broader, long-term research effort aimed at expanding the frontiers of knowledge about the rich biodiversity in our waters and deepening our understanding of different groups of marine organisms, from microorganisms to vertebrate animals, encompassing genomic, metabolomic, and applied biotechnological dimensions. This effort and challenge for the future is only possible within the framework of the GENEMARE\_PORTUGAL project “Blue Biobank - National Bank of Marine Living Resources” – MAR2030 Project, Operation - P01M09 – Support for the Protection and Restoration of Biodiversity and Marine Ecosystems, Call for Proposals no. MAR2030-2023-16 (MAR-016.9.1-FEAMPA-00008), which funded and supported the study on the vermetid *V. triquetrus* at all levels.



Image 1. External appearance of the vermetid *Vermetus triquetrus* in the intertidal zone in the Portuguese Coast.