

# Doing the smelly work

The reproduction and development of *Solemya parkinsoni*

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## Aim

To investigate the reproduction and development of *Solemya parkinsoni*

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## Why is this research important?

*S.parkinsoni* is a New Zealand clam species, however the knowledge base is currently extremely limited, including the reproduction stages and timings.

Prior studies have demonstrated they are a link between terrestrial and marine systems (McLeod & Wing, 2007).

Having a greater understanding of the process will deepen the knowledge base.

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## Methods

Collect monthly samples in Otago Harbour

Induce spawning in the lab

Observe and document reproductive cycle

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Photo courtesy of [www.mollusca.co.nz](http://www.mollusca.co.nz)



Eel grass bed in a mudflat, *Solemya parkinsoni* habitat (note, none present in photo).

## Fun fact

Unlike most other bivalves *S.parkinsoni* is not a filter feeder. They have sulphur oxidising bacteria in their gills which convert sulphur to food.