

# THE WORLD OF PHYCOLOGISTS

Phycologists are scientists who study seaweed. They look at the different types of seaweed growing around the world, discovering all of the benefits that it has for both humans and animals.

*Phycologist  
(fy-KOH-luh-jist)*



*A phycologist's tools include containers to put samples of seaweed in, and an underwater camera for taking photographs. They also need waterproof clothing to work in and around the water.*

# WHAT DO PHYCOLOGISTS DO?

The research that phycologists do is crucial for learning about seaweed and the role it plays in keeping the oceans – and humans – healthy.

## FIELDWORK

A phycologist can travel all around the world, observing the different places that seaweed grows. While doing fieldwork, they also look at the different **species** of animals that either eat seaweed or call it home.

This can be done from a research boat, by diving into the water, or by using **robotic** underwater cameras!



## LAB WORK

In the lab, phycologists use **microscopes** to look at seaweed's **structure** in incredible detail. This helps them to understand how seaweed reacts to things like changes in temperature in its **habitat**. They also investigate the benefits that seaweed has for humans, and the different uses that it has on dry land.



## WHO DO PHYCOLOGISTS WORK FOR?

Phycologists often work for universities or research institutions, studying seaweed and its benefits. They can also work for conservation companies, where they help to protect seaweed and the habitats that it supports.

# FAMOUS DISCOVERIES

Phycologists have made so many amazing discoveries that have changed our understanding of seaweed. Here's just a few of the biggest and best!



## CHILLY ANTARCTICA

Scientists discovered a type of red seaweed in the cold waters around Antarctica. It was 100 m (328 feet) underwater, making it the deepest-growing seaweed in the area. Scientists think that it could be growing even deeper than that!



## SEAWEED MASSAGE

A group of orca whales were spotted by scientists using kelp, which is a type of giant seaweed, to groom each other. Seaweed isn't just used as food or shelter – it can even be used as a type of tool!



## RARE SEAWEED

A very rare type of seaweed called maerl was discovered by scientists in Cornwall in the United Kingdom. They think the maerl could be up to 4,000 years old. It covers an area the size of a town!

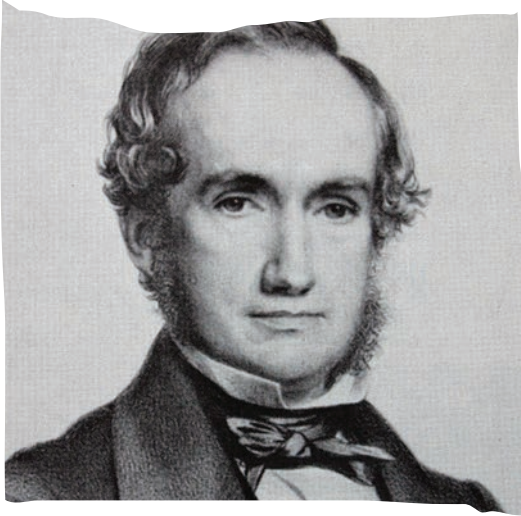


Phycologists are making discoveries all the time; who knows what they might discover next!



# FAMOUS PHYCOLOGISTS

There have been so many clever phycologists over the years. Here's just a few of the most famous.



## WILLIAM HENRY HARVEY

William wrote many books on seaweed, based on trips that he went on to study it. During a trip to Australia, he collected 20,000 samples of over 600 different **species** of seaweed! Many of these were new to science.



## KATHLEEN DREW-BAKER

Kathleen researched the life cycle of certain types of seaweed. This research helped to increase the amount of **edible** seaweed that was grown across the world. It's partly thanks to her that sushi is so popular today!



## GAVINO TRONO

Gavino spent over 50 years researching the benefits of seaweed farming in the Philippines. He was interested in how it could be used to support local people and protect the planet. The Philippines is now one of the biggest seaweed producers in the world!



These are just a few of the many scientists who have made a huge difference to the study of seaweed.

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