

Early Adventures in Studying the Biology of Hydrothermal Vents

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When the first biological expedition to the deep-sea vents happened in 1979 following their earlier discovery in 1977, there were various hypotheses about the energy and material source for these communities, but none of them included the possibility of chemosynthetic endosymbionts. With the revelations in 1980 about the symbioses' existence, an exciting period of discovery was initiated. The ensuing few years were a hectic adventure first of looking for new symbioses and then of developing and testing new methods and insights about these symbioses and the factors affecting the distributions of the major species.