

1 Title

2 The Antarctic Seafloor Annotated Imagery Database

3 Authors

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24 Abstract

25 Marine imagery is a comparatively cost-effective way to collect data on seafloor organisms,
26 biodiversity and habitat morphology. However, annotating these images to extract detailed
27 biological information is time-consuming and expensive, and reference libraries of consistently
28 annotated seafloor images are rarely publicly available. Here, we present the Antarctic
29 Seafloor Annotated Imagery Database (AS-AID), a result of a multinational collaboration to
30 collate and annotate regional seafloor imagery datasets from 19 Antarctic research cruises
31 between 1985 and 2019. AS-AID comprises of 3,599 georeferenced downward facing seafloor
32 images that have been labelled with a total of 615,051 expert annotations. Annotations are
33 based on the CATAMI (Collaborative and Automated Tools for Analysis of Marine Imagery)
34 classification scheme and have been reviewed by experts. In addition, because the pixel
35 location of each annotation within each image is available, annotations can be viewed easily
36 and customised to suit individual research priorities.

37 This dataset can be used to investigate species distributions, community patterns, it provides
38 a reference to assess change through time, and can be used to train algorithms to
39 automatically detect and annotate marine fauna.

40 **Background & Summary**

41 Marine imagery is a cost-effective and non-intrusive way to gather information about the
42 seafloor. Extracting sound and detailed biological information from these images, however, is
43 a key bottleneck because image annotation is time-consuming and often expensive. Perhaps
44 because these data are difficult to produce, they have historically rarely been shared on public
45 repositories. There has been a recent societal and scientific shift towards sharing data, greater
46 transparency and reproducibility of data (FAIR data principles)^{1,2}, and increasing capabilities of
47 machine learning methods that require large numbers of annotated images has encouraged
48 more scientists and research institutions to make datasets of expert annotated marine images
49 publicly available (e.g., FathomNet³). Nonetheless, for most regions around the world,
50 including the Southern Ocean, expert annotated seafloor images are rarely publicly available.

51 The sparsity of biological data impedes efforts to benchmark the status of marine ecosystems,
52 and therefore also prevents monitoring of ecological change. This is particularly evident for
53 the highly biodiverse Antarctic seafloor⁴⁻⁶, which still lacks a comprehensive analysis of the
54 distribution of its biodiversity on a continental scale. While Southern Ocean ecosystems are
55 predicted to change significantly as global temperatures change⁷⁻¹¹, the information
56 underlying this knowledge stems from either single regions^{8,10,12} or global models¹¹, from
57 single taxonomic groups⁹ or from datasets that compile opportunistically collected fauna⁷. A
58 database of the distribution and abundances of a broad range of organisms covering the entire
59 Antarctic continental shelf is invaluable to help identifying key conservation areas and
60 managing these unique ecosystems.

61 In this article, we introduce a database of expert annotated seafloor imagery from the
62 Antarctic continental shelf and slope, the Antarctic Seafloor Annotated Imagery Database (AS-
63 AID, Fig. 1). AS-AID comprises of 3,599 annotated images and 615,051 annotations of a total
64 of 180 faunal classifications. Images have been collected from scientific surveys between 1985
65 and 2019 for which data was either publicly available or could be sourced by directly
66 contacting data curators. This represents the first international effort to collate images from
67 different regions of the Southern Ocean at a pan-Antarctic scale into a single database and
68 annotate these images using a single classification scheme.

69 Repeatability is key to making data useful beyond the scope of a single project, which is why
70 annotations in AS-AID are based on an internationally recognised standard for labelling marine
71 images (CATAMI¹³), and all annotations have exact reference points (x and y coordinates) to
72 their respective images. Users can view AS-AID annotations on Squidle+ (www.squidle.org)
73 and review all annotations for a single label and customise annotation labels to suit their own
74 research objective. AS-AID can be used to train deep learning algorithms for automated
75 classification of marine fauna. Combining AS-AID with environmental data and statistical
76 models can allow insights into the species distributions and ecological processes that shape
77 Antarctic seafloor ecosystems^{10,14-16}.

78 **Methods**

79 The Antarctic Seafloor Annotated Image Database (AS-AID) includes downward facing images
80 of the seafloor at a depth range between 100 – 3,000 m from Antarctic scientific surveys for
81 which we were able to obtain access to both images and detailed metadata records. We
82 restricted the database to images deeper than 100 m because at these depths environmental
83 conditions are more stable (e.g., relatively less impact on the fauna from iceberg scour) and
84 more comparable between regions, which suits the continental scale biodiversity analysis that
85 this database has primarily been developed for. AS-AID focusses on downward facing seafloor
86 imagery rather than oblique facing imagery (where cameras can be mounted at different

87 angles) because initial work indicated that downward facing images are more comparable
88 between different surveys, with greater uniformity of illumination and resolution.
89 Additionally, the area of seabed imaged with downward facing cameras can be more
90 accurately estimated than from data collected with obliquely mounted cameras. In total, we
91 identified 19 surveys from 2019 and prior that collected downward facing images of suitable
92 quality with accessible metadata records also available (Fig. 1, 2 & Table 1). The only surveys
93 that we identified as potentially suitable, but for which we could not access all relevant data
94 were LMG1703 and ANA08D, which are therefore excluded from AS-AID at time of writing.

95 **Sampling locations and image collection**

96 AS-AID images were collected during 19 scientific cruises between 1985 and 2019 (Tables 1-
97 4), using a range of different camera platforms (Table 4). Figure 2 shows an overview of
98 sampling locations for all image transects included in AS-AID. Images and metadata were
99 downloaded and stored on external hard-drives, and image filenames were standardised for
100 processing.

101 **Image pre-processing**

102 We inspected all 72,560 images visually and removed images/transects from AS-AID that were
103 out of focus, too far or too close to the seafloor to allow identification of animals, had poor
104 lighting, or had unreliable coordinates (Tables 2 & 3). We then corrected images for tone,
105 colour and contrast using the automated batch function in Adobe Photoshop Version 21 (all
106 surveys apart from PS96, see Table 4). Further, because the corners of images from surveys
107 PS81, PS96, PS118 and AA2011 are out of focus we cropped these images to either 80% or
108 90% of their original size (Table 4).

109 **Image sub-setting**

110 Annotating all images from all surveys is neither feasible nor desirable due to the large
111 differences in sampling effort among surveys (i.e., the density of images along the transect
112 lines is highly variable). We therefore created a subset of the full dataset by selecting a
113 spatially balanced random subset of the images using their coordinates and the distance along
114 the transect line with the R package MBHdesign version 2.2.2. Where only one coordinate for
115 the transect was available, or where recorded end-coordinates of the transects did not match
116 with expected values given the duration of the deployment and the normal ship-speed during
117 deployment (max 1 kn), we randomly selected 5 of the first 25 images in those transects and
118 assigned these images to the starting position of the transect (Table 2).

119 The primary image subset we created contains approximately 1 image for every 100 m of
120 survey transect (3,599 images, Table 3). Further, we created a smaller secondary subset of
121 images for a more detailed exhaustive search of each image, containing approximately 1 image
122 for every 200 m of survey transect (1912 images, Table 3).

123 **Image annotation**

124 We used both a point-grid and an exhaustive search for annotating the images. Point-grid
125 annotation allows estimating percentage cover of all substrates and organisms present in the
126 image, but the number of points that make up the grid influence how well these percentages
127 are estimated, and how well rare and/or small organisms are detected¹⁷. In contrast, labelling
128 organisms individually in an exhaustive search reduces detectability issues for rare species.
129 However, individual labels present a challenge for many colonial organisms because individual
130 colony sizes can vary greatly and it is frequently ambiguous how many colonies there are. We
131 chose to first label all images in the primary subset using a point-grid, and then label the
132 secondary subset using an exhaustive search. In the exhaustive search we focussed only on
133 two groups of organisms: Mobile species, and small or rare species comprising Vulnerable

134 Marine Ecosystem taxa (VME taxa as defined by the Commission for the Conservation of
135 Antarctic Marine Living Resources, CCAMLR) that are not colonial.

136 For point-grid annotation we overlaid all images in the primary subset with a regular grid of
137 108 points (9x12) to closely match the 3x4 height to width ratio of the images. We chose 108
138 points as a good compromise between sampling effort and time constraints. For each point
139 we only identified what substrate or organisms could be found within the single pixel in the
140 centre of this point. While this required us to regularly zoom in and out of the image to
141 determine the exact position of the point, it reduced potential bias towards labelling a point
142 as an organism instead of substrate. We used CoralNet (coralnet.ucsd.edu/), which is a web-
143 based toolkit with inbuilt deep-learning capabilities¹⁸. We manually annotated all images and
144 used the inbuilt deep-learning algorithm as assistance to more quickly select the correct label.

145 For individually labelling organisms in the secondary subset via an exhaustive search, we used
146 the online toolkit BIIGLE 2.0 (www.biigle.de/) and their “lawnmower mode” to systematically
147 search through an image¹⁹. We identified each organism from the respective morphospecies
148 list (Supplementary Classification Catalog) and drew a close-fitting circle around the organism
149 if they were mainly (>50% of their body) within the image.

150 For all images in the primary subset, we used BIIGLE to annotate visible laser-points that allow
151 calculating the imaged seabed area.

152 **Image classification scheme**

153 We classified all organisms based on CATAMI¹³ (Collaborative and Annotation Tools for
154 Analysis of Marine Imagery), and added labels to the classification tree when we could
155 confidently distinguish organisms further into separate morphospecies.

156 CATAMI is a hierarchical classification scheme that uses taxonomy at the higher levels of the
157 classification tree and morphology at the lower levels of the classification tree. This approach
158 accounts for the fact that it is often difficult to identify seafloor fauna to a fine taxonomic
159 resolution without physical specimens and that the morphology of seafloor fauna is often
160 reflective of function. Where further discrimination is known or needed these can be added
161 at the end of the respective CATAMI branch.

162 Our classification catalogue for both the point-scoring and the exhaustive search can be found
163 in the supplementary information.

164 **Quality control & expert review**

165 All annotations went through rigorous quality control comprising three stages: Labelling
166 review, internal QA/QC, and expert review.

167 Labelling review concerns the exhaustive search only: After all images of a survey had been
168 fully annotated in BIIGLE, a second scorer systematically searched through all images again to
169 label any organisms the first scorer had missed. The use of two scorers to search though each
170 image gives us high confidence that few individuals have been missed.

171 Internal QAQC: We conducted a two-stage internal QAQC both individually for each survey
172 during annotation and also for all surveys combined. In the internal QAQC we reviewed each
173 label, corrected any misclassification and discussed with the team if necessary. For reviewing
174 labels from the grid annotation, we cropped 50x50 pixel thumbnails around each grid-point
175 and sorted the thumbnails by their label in a morphospecies library. For reviewing the
176 individual annotations from the exhaustive search using BIIGLE we used BIIGLE’s inbuilt
177 “Largo” review function. After this first review, we then created a second library containing
178 only thumbnails of morphospecies whose labels had changed during the review. This second
179 review stage was to ensure all changes made to the original scoring were correct.

180 Expert review: In the third stage of our review process, we consulted with taxonomic experts
181 to ensure the morphospecies grouping and labelling was consistent, and to help identify some
182 of the unknown organisms encountered.

183 **Data Records**

184 Link 1: To be included here is a link to a persistent and publicly accessible repository that
185 contains all images, metadata and annotations of AS-AID.

186 Link 2: To be included here is a link to the data on SQUIDLE+. SQUIDLE+ has a user friendly
187 interface that can be used to interrogate the annotated images in more detail.

188 **Technical Validation**

189 Annotations in AS-AID have gone through a rigorous review process involving experienced
190 scientists, trained students and taxonomists. During the annotation process, the annotation
191 team (consisting of two scientists, one postgraduate student and one undergraduate student)
192 met regularly (daily at the beginning, weekly at a later stage and every time a survey was fully
193 annotated) to discuss uncertain annotations, ensure consistent annotation between the
194 scorers and create new labels where necessary. All annotations were checked for correct
195 labelling once a survey was fully annotated and the entire database was checked again after
196 all surveys had been fully annotated. Further, expert taxonomists were consulted in particular
197 for key taxa such as sponges, cnidarians and bryozoans. The largest uncertainties in this
198 database were distinguishing whether an object was an organism or substrate, and whether
199 an organism was dead or alive, and we created a number of categories to label these cases
200 accordingly, such as e.g. “Unknown Biological Matrix” or “Unidentifiable”.

201 In AS-AID, we have opted to use experts to consecutively perform tasks on the same set of
202 images. In particular, this meant one expert labelled the images while a second expert checked
203 the annotations in the review process and flagged any misclassifications for discussion. While
204 this process didn’t allow label accuracy to be quantified, it did allow organisms to be labelled
205 more consistently throughout the entire database.

206 Researchers are invited to assess the validity of AS-AID for their own research purposes. Every
207 annotation in AS-AID is linked to an image with a unique filename and contains the x- and y-
208 coordinates where the organisms is found on that image as well as other metadata such as
209 imaged area and imaging gear. Therefore, every annotation is fully traceable, allowing
210 researchers to customise and assess the validity of AS-AID for their needs.

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220 **Author contributions**

221 JJ: Conceptualization, Methodology, Software, Validation, Investigation, Data Curation,
222 Writing - Original Draft, Writing – Review & Editing, Visualization, Supervision, Project
223 Administration, Funding acquisition

224 VS: Methodology, Validation, Investigation, Data Curation, Writing – Review & Editing

225 CG: Methodology, Validation, Investigation, Data Curation, Writing – Review & Editing

226 TW: Methodology, Validation, Investigation, Writing – Review & Editing

227 NH: Conceptualization, Methodology, Writing – Review & Editing, Supervision, Project
228 Administration, Funding acquisition

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230 DAB: Investigation, Resources, Writing – Review & Editing

231 JG: Investigation, Resources, Writing – Review & Editing

232 NB: Investigation, Writing – Review & Editing

233 RD: Investigation, Writing – Review & Editing

234 ME: Investigation, Writing – Review & Editing

235 ALP: Investigation, Writing – Review & Editing

236 HG: Resources, Writing – Review & Editing

237 KL: Resources, Writing – Review & Editing

238 AP: Resources, Writing – Review & Editing

239 DP: Investigation, Resources, Writing – Review & Editing

240 CS: Resources, Writing – Review & Editing

241 AZ: Resources, Writing – Review & Editing

242 CJ: Conceptualization, Methodology, Writing – Review & Editing, Supervision, Project
243 Administration, Funding acquisition

244 **Competing interests**

245 The authors declare no competing financial interests.

246 **Figures**

247 **Figure 1:**

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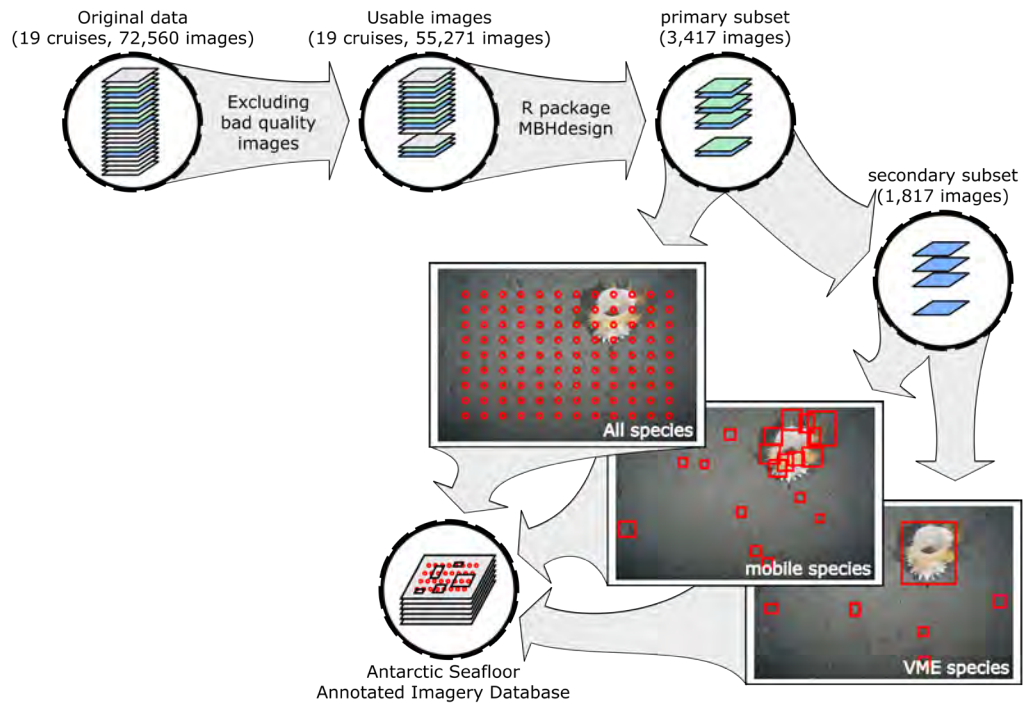
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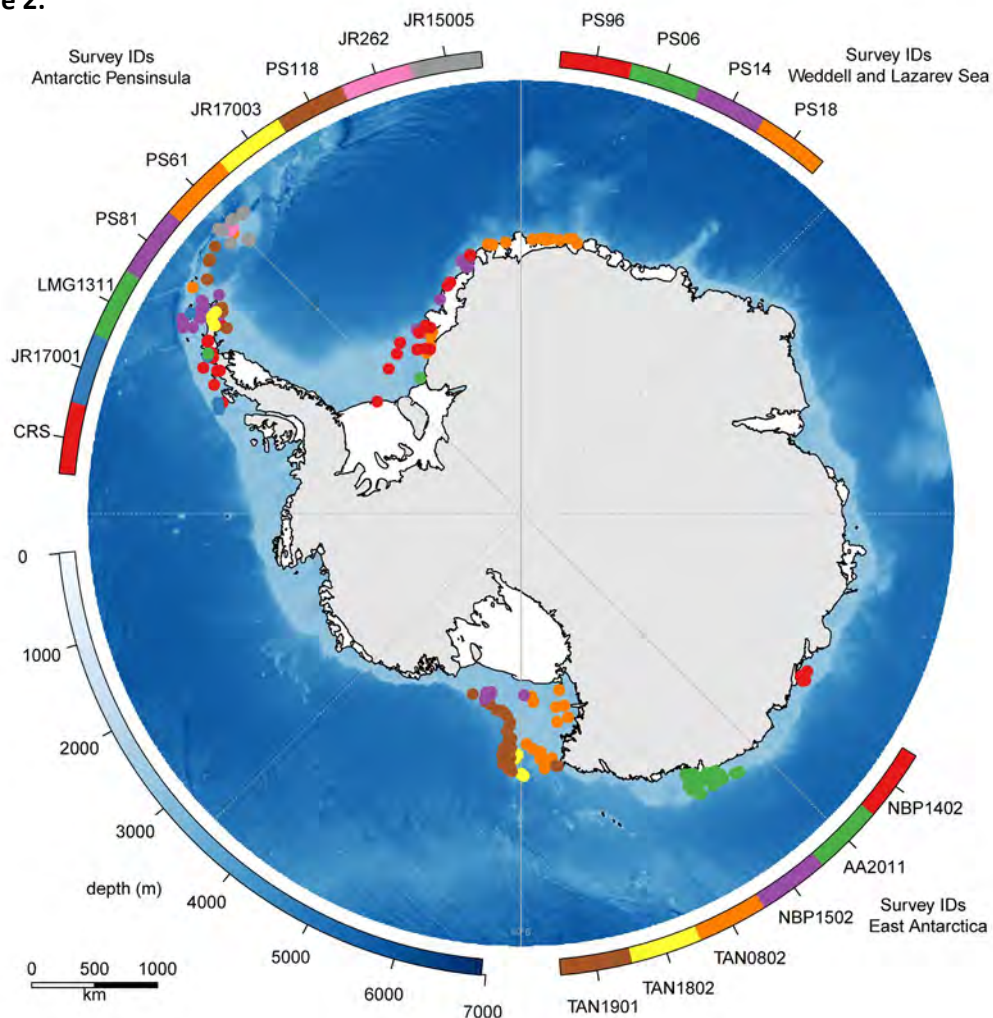
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263 **Figure 2:**



264 **Figure 3:**

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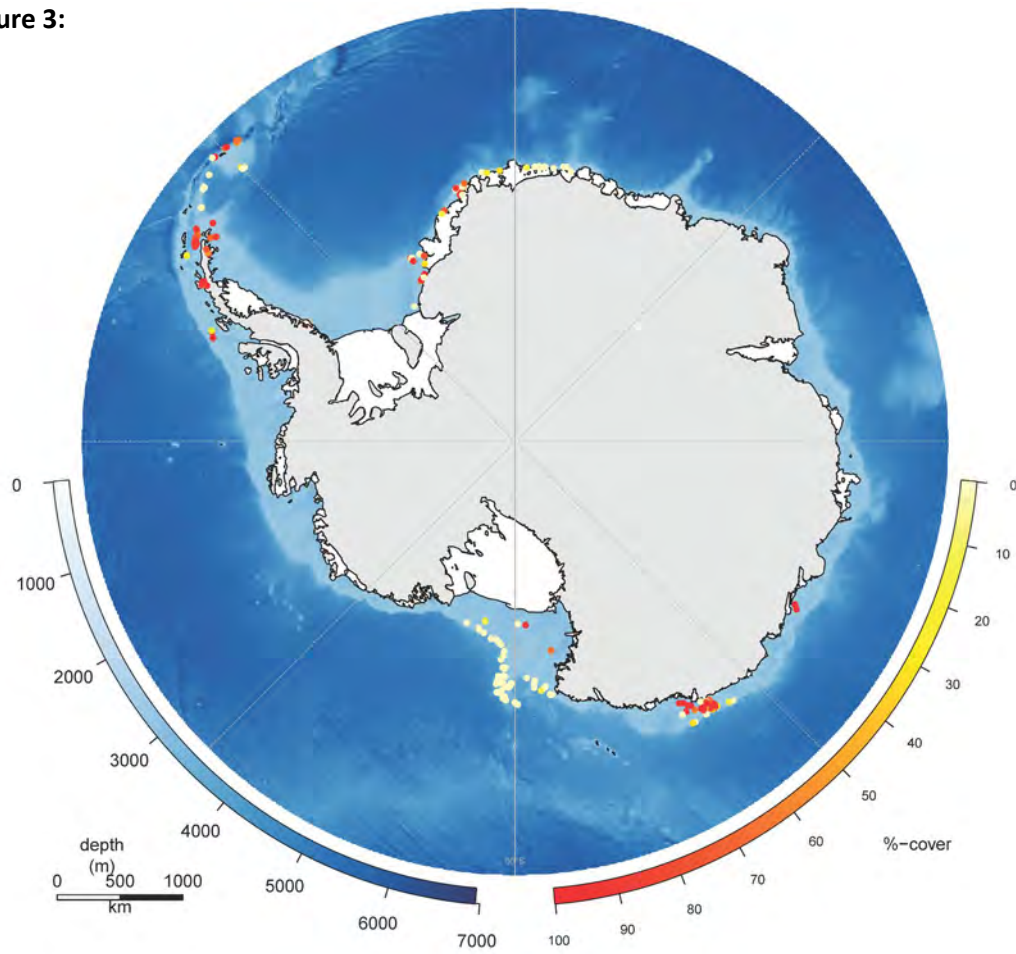
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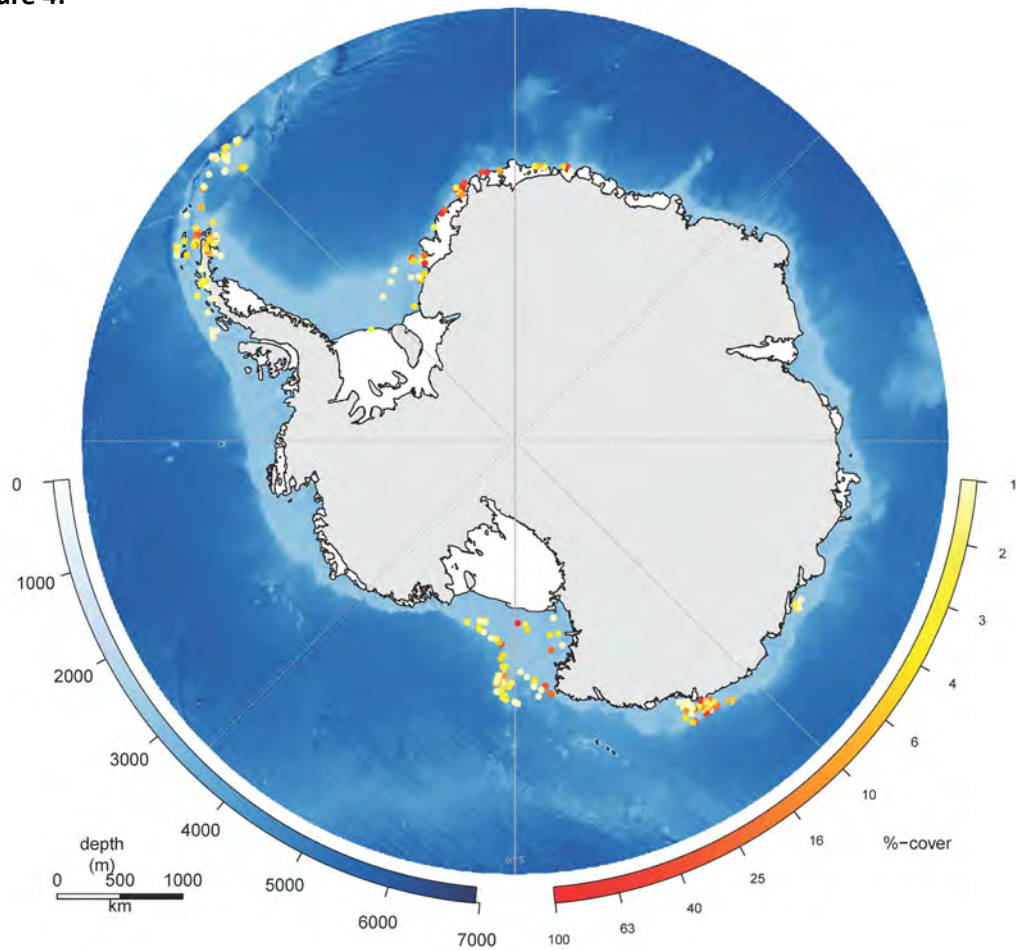
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283 **Figure 4:**



284 **Figure Legends**

285 **Figure 1:** Simple overview of the steps involved in building AS-AID, including the methodology
286 used to generate the database. Seabed photo sourced from pangea.de

287 **Figure 2:** Overview of the circum-Antarctic distribution of sampling locations. Details about
288 each survey can be found in tables 1-4.

289 **Figure 3:** Percentage cover of fine substrate across all sampling locations

290 **Figure 4:** Combined percentage cover of all ascidians, bryozoans, cnidarians, hydrocorals and
291 sponges at each sampling location.

292 **Tables**

293 Table 1: Survey details, including links and references to data repositories

Survey ID	Year	Region	Contact	Reference/repository for data	Dataset link (if available)	License (if available)
PS06 (ANT-III/3)	1984/85	Weddell Sea	J. Gutt	Gutt ²⁰ Gutt ²¹	www.pangaea.de/?q=ps06+benthos&f.author%5B%5D=Gutt%2C+Julian&f.pubyear%5B%5D=1985	CC-BY-3.0
PS14 (ANT-VII/4)	1989	Weddell Sea	J. Gutt	Gutt ²² ,Gutt ²³ ,Gutt ²⁴ ,Gutt ²⁵ ,Gutt ²⁶ ,Gutt ²⁷ ,Gutt ²⁸ ,Gutt ²⁹ ,Gutt ³⁰ ,Gutt ³¹ ,Gutt ³² ,Gutt ³³ ,Gutt ³⁴ ,Gutt ³⁵ ,Gutt ³⁶ ,Gutt ³⁷ ,Gutt ³⁸ ,Gutt ³⁹	www.pangaea.de/?q=ps14+benthos&f.author%5B%5D=Gutt%2C+Julian&f.pubyear%5B%5D=2010&f.pubyear%5B%5D=1989	CC-BY-3.0
PS18 (ANT-IX/3)	1990/91	Lazarev Sea	J. Gutt	Gutt ⁴⁰ ,Gutt ⁴¹ ,Gutt ⁴² ,Gutt ⁴³ ,Gutt ⁴⁴ ,Gutt ⁴⁵ ,Gutt ⁴⁶ ,Gutt ⁴⁷ ,Gutt ⁴⁸ ,Gutt ⁴⁹ ,Gutt ⁵⁰ ,Gutt ⁵¹ ,Gutt ⁵² ,Gutt ⁵³ ,Gutt ⁵⁴ ,Gutt ⁵⁵ ,Gutt ⁵⁶ ,Gutt ⁵⁷ ,Gutt ⁵⁸ ,Gutt ⁵⁹ ,Gutt ⁶⁰ ,Gutt ⁶¹	www.pangaea.de/?q=ps18+benthos&f.author%5B%5D=Gutt%2C+Julian	CC-BY-3.0
PS61 (ANT-XIX/5)	2002	Antarctic Peninsula	J. Gutt	Arntz and Gutt ⁶² ,Arntz and Gutt ⁶³	doi.pangaea.de/10.1594/PANGAEA.220747 doi.pangaea.de/10.1594/PANGAEA.220746	CC-BY-3.0
PS81 (ANT-XXIX/3)	2013	Antarctic Peninsula	D. Piepenburg	Piepenburg, et al. ⁶⁴	doi.pangaea.de/10.1594/PANGAEA.872719	CC-BY-3.0
PS96 (ANT-XXXI/2)	2015/16	Weddell Sea	D. Piepenburg	Piepenburg ⁶⁵	doi.pangaea.de/10.1594/PANGAEA.862097	CC-BY-3.0
PS118	2019	Antarctic Peninsula	A. Purser	Purser, et al. ⁶⁶	doi.pangaea.de/10.1594/PANGAEA.911904	CC-BY-4.0
TAN0802	2008	Ross Sea	D. Bowden		https://atlas.niwa.co.nz/	CC-BY-3.0
TAN1802	2018	Ross Sea	D. Bowden		https://atlas.niwa.co.nz/	CC-BY-3.0
TAN1901	2019	Ross Sea	D. Bowden		https://atlas.niwa.co.nz/	CC-BY-3.0
CRS	various cruises/ years	Antarctic Peninsula	C. Smith A. Ziegler	Grange and Smith ⁶⁷	Dataset link to be made available	
NBP1402	2014	East Antarctica	A. Post	Leventer, et al. ⁶⁸ ,Post, et al. ⁶⁹	https://www.usap-dc.org/view/dataset/601310	CC BY-NC 4.0
AA2011	2011	East Antarctica	J. Smith	Smith ⁷⁰	data.aad.gov.au/metadata/records/VMS_Benthic_Photos	CC-BY-4.0
NBP1502	2015	Ross Sea	P. Bart	Bart ⁷¹	https://doi.org/10.15784/601182	CC BY-NC 4.0
LMG1311	2013	Antarctic Peninsula	A. Leventer	Domack ⁷²	https://doi.org/10.15784/601311	CC BY-NC 4.0
JR262	2011	South Orkney	D. Barnes	Barnes and Sands ⁷³ ,Barnes, et al. ⁷⁴		
JR15005	2015	South Orkney	H. Griffiths	Brasier, et al. ⁷⁵		
JR17001	2017	Antarctic Peninsula	D. Barnes	Barnes, et al. ⁷⁶ ,Zwerschke, et al. ⁷⁷		
JR17003	2018	Antarctic Peninsula	K. Linse	Linse, et al. ⁷⁸	doi.org/10.5285/48dcef16-6719-45e5-a335-3a97f099e451	http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/

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295 Table 2: Data characteristics for each cruise and comments on which data were excluded. Metadata quality: * single lon/lat position for each transect; ** lon/lat available for
 296 start/end locations of each transect Locations of individual images interpolated from start/end locations; *** lon/lat available for each image

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Survey ID	Metadata quality	Transects included	Comments
PS06	*	2/10	Excluded transect 288: located near/under iceshelf (no available environmental data) Excluded transects 301-303, 307, 309-311: Blurry images
PS14	**	18/24	Image quality low Excluded transects 248, 250, 259, 261: Blurry/discoloured images Excluded transect 274: Coordinates unreliable (transect on land) Excluded transect 312: Located in the South Atlantic
PS18	**	22/25	Excluded transects 162-1, 173-2 & 207-1: located near/under iceshelf (no available environmental data)
PS61	**	2/8	Only included transects 235-1 & 249-1: all other transects are on the Scotia Arc which is not part of this database
PS81	***	29/30	Excluded transect 159: Bad visibility making it difficult to identify organisms
PS96	***	13/13	-
PS118	***	10/11	Excluded transect 38: Bad visibility making it difficult to identify organisms Transects 39 & 69: Reduced transect starts and ends to form straight transect lines
TAN0802	***	17/53	Excluded transects 181-310: located on seamounts off the Antarctic continental shelf
TAN1802	***	31/31	Planned to exclude transects 160-213 which are located on seamounts off the Antarctic continental shelf. However, accidentally annotated images from these 16 transects anyway.
TAN1901	***	34/34	Planned to exclude transect 209 which is located on a seamount off the Antarctic continental shelf. However, accidentally annotated images from this transects anyway.
CRS	**	32/34	Excluded transect 1103: Bad illumination/image quality Excluded transect 1325: Uncertain reliability of coordinates (transect very long with few images only)
NBP1402	**	10/10	-
AA2011	***	71/86	Excluded transects CTD53, CTD55, CTD57-58, CTD61-64, CTD85, CTD90, CTD93, CTD98, CTD107, CTD115 & CTD138: no or only blurry/unusable images
NBP1502	**	5/7	Excluded transects KC16 & KC17: no metadata available/accessible
LMG1311	**	2/2	-
JR262	*	4/23	Image quality very low 4 transects on the South Orkney shelf included, all other transects are off the Antarctic continental shelf/slope
JR15005	**	21/21	-
JR17001	***	7/7	-
JR17003	***	12/12	-

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299 Table 3: Overview of the number of images per survey and how subsets were created. “Total” is the number of images downloaded from the repository; “Usable” is the
 300 number of images that show the seafloor, are in focus and are neither blurry nor too bright/dark; “Included” is the number of images added to our database, that is images
 301 that are from transects that we were interested in analysing; and “Subset 1” and “Subset 2” are the number of images that were selected for annotation for the point-scoring
 302 method and the exhaustive search respectively.

303

Survey ID	Number of images					Image subsetting
	Total	Usable	Included	Subset 1	Subset 2	
PS06	500	31	16	9	5	Transect 289: selected 5 random images Transect 292: selected all good quality images (4)
PS14	1523	1220	1098	119	65	Spatially-balanced-random However: Start/end coordinates not trustworthy (ship speed would be >1kt) for transects 245, 250, 256, 259, 260, 261, 275, 278-3, 280 & 293: Selected 5 random images out of the first 25 images from these transects, using starting GPS coordinates as image position.
PS18	1705	1654	1456	103	59	Spatially-balanced-random However: Start/end coordinates not trustworthy (ship speed would be >1kt) for transects 171-1, 173-1, 206-2, 211-2 & 222-1: Selected 5 random images out of the first 25 images from these transects, using starting GPS coordinates as image position.
PS61	139	129	129	12	7	Spatially-balanced-random
PS81	14543	14516	14021	1041	528	Spatially-balanced-random
PS96	2736	2727	2727	217	112	Spatially-balanced-random
PS118	12629	6057	4691	260	133	Spatially-balanced-random Transect 11-2: GPS-coordinates wiggle a lot between images -> subset based on distance from start rather than distance along transect Transect 39-1: removed the first 800 and the last 487 images to result in a straight lined transect Transect 69-1: removed the first 29 and the last 50 images to result in a straight lined transect
TAN0802	13046	11403	3310	173	91	Spatially-balanced-random
TAN1802	7470	5616	5616	336	175	Spatially-balanced-random
TAN1901	8301	5878	5878	373	195	Spatially-balanced-random
CRS	2396	2032	1982	320	169	Spatially-balanced-random
NBP1402	761	692	453	78	43	Spatially-balanced-random
AA2011	1853	435	435	71	71	Selected 1 random image per transect due to low number of usable images
NBP1502	2869	1719	1719	245	124	Spatially-balanced-random
LMG1311	263	222	222	60	31	Spatially-balanced-random
JR262	61	31	31	17	10	Selected 5 random images per transect
JR15005	773	505	505	88	53	Spatially-balanced-random
JR17001	142	120	120	14	8	Spatially-balanced-random
JR17003	850	279	279	63	33	Spatially-balanced-random
TOTAL	72560	55271	42090	3599	1912	

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Table 4: Details on image collection, image characteristics and annotation

Survey ID	Camera-platform	Depth-range (IBCSO V2) for images		Distance from seafloor	Size of imaged seabed area	Laser- points	Image crop	Colour- corrected	Point-score all species	Annotations	
		included	annotated							Exhaustive search mobile species	VME species
PS06	Photo sledge (FTS)	349 – 1115	same	Constant (weight)	Unknown	-	No	Yes	972	241	10
PS14	Photo sledge (FTS)	148 – 1347	same	Constant (weight)	0.56m ²	-	No	Yes	12852	1110	119
PS18	Photo sledge (FTS)	144 – 956	176 – 956	Constant (weight)	~0.9m ² (but cruise report says 1m ² ...)	-	No	Yes	11124	1889	180
PS61	Photo sledge (FTS)	330 – 348	same	Constant (weight)	~1m ²	-	No	Yes	1296	218	4
PS81	OFOS	52 – 783	same	Variable	Calculate	50cm	80%	Yes	112428	83888	15249
PS96	OFOS	198 – 731	same	Variable	Provided + calculated	50cm	80%	No	23436	7602	3852
PS118	OFOBS	82 – 2169	same	Variable	Calculate	50cm	80%	Yes	28080	24900	6692
TAN0802	DTIS	287 – 2258	same	Variable	Calculate	20cm	No	Yes	18684	6237	872
TAN1802	DTIS	664 – 1213	same	Variable	Calculate	20cm	No	Yes	36288	12279	5964
TAN1901	DTIS	447 – 1373	same	Variable	Calculate	20cm	No	Yes	40284	16837	9523
CRS	YOYO	239 – 693	same	Constant (weight, 2.5m)	~3m ² + calculated	10cm	No	Yes	34560	5850	573
NBP1402	YOYO	281 – 899	same	Constant (weight, 2.5m)	~4.8m ² + calculated	10cm	No	Yes	8424	2474	342
AA2011	CTD	198 – 1453	same	Variable	Calculate	50cm	90%	Yes	7668	5322	543
NBP1502	YOYO	175 – 597	same	Calculate	Calculate	10cm	No	Yes	26460	6242	1281
LMG1311	YOYO	349 – 654	same	Calculate	Calculate	10cm	No	Yes	6480	1720	308
JR262	SUCS	219 – 280	same	Constant (frame)	0.51m ²	-	No	Yes	1836	112	9
JR15005	SUCS	473 – 1017	same	Constant (frame)	0.51m ²	-	No	Yes	9504	875	112
JR17001	SUCS	67 – 507	same	Constant (frame)	0.51m ²	-	No	Yes	1512	74	21
JR17003	SUCS	184 – 865	same	Constant (frame)	0.51m ²	-	No	Yes	6804	2702	133
TOTAL		67 – 2258							388692	180572	45787

306

307 **Supplementary information**

308 The size of the classification catalog files is larger than the maximum allowed size for files at
309 BioRxiv. The classification catalog files are available upon request from the corresponding
310 author and will be made publicly available with the peer-reviewed version of this paper.

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