

Microplastic found in Antarctic krill and salps

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Antarctic krill, small crustaceans, are filter feeders eating phytoplankton and other microscopic organisms. Credit: Pete Lens (BAS)

A new study led by researchers at the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) discovered microplastics in krill (*Euphausia superba*), a small shrimp-like crustacean, and salps (*Salpa thompsoni*), a gelatinous marine invertebrate. The results are published today (March 29) in the journal *Royal Society Open Science*.

While Antarctic krill have been observed ingesting microplastics in laboratory settings, the team's findings provide important evidence that these animals, as well as other [zooplankton](#), ingest plastic in their natural environment.

Microplastics are present in the Southern Ocean from the sea surface to [seabed](#). Due to the small size of these particles (

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