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The Ecology of *Cyclocardia ventricosa* (Gould, 1850) (Bivalvia: Carditidae) on the Southern California Borderland

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ABSTRACT

The pelecypod *Cyclocardia ventricosa* (Gould, 1850) is a widely distributed member of the benthos of the southern California borderland. It is particularly prominent in three borderland habitats: the northern portion of the mainland shelf (Point Conception to Pitas Point); the slope adjacent to the central portion of the mainland shelf (Mugu Submarine Canyon to Dana Point), and the shelf of San Miguel and Santa Rosa islands. Its depth range on the borderland was 14 to 574 m, but 75% of the locations where it was collected were in depths of 200 m or less. Within the *Amphiodia-Cyclocardia* community on the northern portion of the mainland shelf, the dispersion of *C. ventricosa* was aggregated; elsewhere, where densities were lower, randomness characterized its distribution. Aggregated dispersion may be a function of the mode of reproduction of this species, which broods its young rather than having planktonic larvae. *Cyclocardia ventricosa* is associated with a diverse array of macrofaunal taxa which differ markedly from on habitat to another.