

Dr. Beth Horvath, Westmont College, CA.

Beth Horvath--Professor of Biology, Westmont College (Santa Barbara, California); Research Associate with SB Museum of Natural History; degree in marine biology, primarily an invertebrate zoologist.

Current research--The taxonomic standing of numerous forms of gorgonian coral across the eastern Pacific. With that elucidated, issues of gorgonian ecology are next for study, as gorgonians create important "forests" on the sea floor for all manner of invertebrate and many forms of commercial fish. Deep sea forms are becoming the "hot ticket" of study, as more becomes known about global climate change and how that is impacting the deep sea.

In the marine ecology segment of "New Zealand Ecosystems," we will be looking at specific examples of the various types of relationship that occur: between marine organisms, between those organisms and their abiotic environment and between those marine organisms and the humans that utilize their environment in all manner of ways. Our manner of interaction with the marine environment will be crucial to sustained living on this planet; we need to alter our interactions so that they are far more sustainable, "earth friendly" and clearly bear witness to the great gift of life, in all its forms, that our Creator has blessed us so richly with.

I adore reading, but ONLY read books when printed on paper!! No e-books for this gal!

I think that invertebrates are even MORE interesting than vertebrates and hope you will find their diversity as intriguing and as exciting as I do.