

## SAMPLE ABSTRACT

This is the title of an abstract about *Spisula solidissima*

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This is the beginning of some text to illustrate the format for an abstract. It is typed in Times Roman, a serif typeface, at a size of 12 points, as is the title and author information. The text is double spaced, has a margin of 1 inch on all sides, and is unjustified; that is, it has a ragged right margin. It uses *italics* where necessary—for example, for the name of a species such as *Spisula solidissima*. It leaves one space, not two, after a period or a colon. It keeps the use of abbreviations to a minimum—except, of course, for chemical symbols (N, P, Ca, etc.) and SI units (mg, ml,  $\mu$ g, etc) used with numbers. It uses the correct symbol for micro ( $\mu$ ), not the letter u, because typing u would result in an error in the published abstract. If an abbreviation or acronym must be used, it is spelled out at first mention, with the abbreviation following in parentheses. For example, the name of the Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL) is abbreviated because it is repeated several times within the abstract. If the MBL were not referred to several times, it would not have been necessary to use the abbreviation MBL. This sample abstract contains no references, no figures, no tables, and no footnotes. The length of the text (not

including the title and the author information) was checked with the Word Count function in Microsoft Word to be sure that it did not exceed 300 words. Finally, the text of the abstract was run through Word's spelling checker. Although this has some limitations (for example, it won't know if *affect* was used when *effect* was intended, because both are legitimate words), it is still a useful tool.