

A new genus of chemosymbiotic vesicomylid bivalves from the Oligocene of western North America

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We describe a new genus of the chemosymbiotic bivalve family Vesicomylidae, *Squiresica*, for two Oligocene species, previously assigned to *Archivesica*, from western North America. *Squiresica* is characterized by a small and weakly inflated shell, a small to nearly absent pallial sinus, an *Archivesica*-like hinge dentition, with an indistinct to well incised lunular incision. Two species are assigned to this new genus: the type species, *S. knapptonensis* from western Washington State, USA, and *S. marincovich* from Oligocene strata of Alaska, USA. *Squiresica knapptonensis* had previously been described from the upper Oligocene of the Lincoln Creek Formation; further specimens are here reported from a newly discovered seep deposit in the lower Oligocene part of the Lincoln Creek Formation.

Key words: Bivalvia, Vesicomylidae, cold-seep, deep-water, Oligocene, North America.

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