

Some unfamiliar-sounding ingredients may yield important pharmaceutical products. Below are some of the deep-sea resources that may prove to be extremely valuable in treating human conditions:

Discodermolide: When isolated from the sponge *Discodermia dissolute*, this may treat cancers which are resistant to other drugs.

E7389: This is a synthetic version of an agent found in the sponge *Lissodendoryx sp.* and is in clinical trials for the treatment of lung cancer and other cancers.

Dictyostatin-1: Also isolated from a sponge, this may be more effective than Taxol as an anti-cancer drug.

Topsentin: Isolated from the sponge *Spongosporites ruetzleri*, this shows promise as an anti-inflammatory agent to treat arthritis and skin irritations, as well as for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease and the prevention of colon cancer.

Bone Grafts: Deep-sea species of coral have been shown to have skeletal structure and dimensions that are almost identical to bone. They may be used as bone grafts like shallow tropical corals have been used for more than 10 years.

Collagen: Gorgonin, found in bamboo corals, closely resembles an important component of bone called collagen. It can be used for the controlled release of medicines and as a foundation for tissue rebuilding.