

This is an Open Access document downloaded from ORCA, Cardiff University's institutional repository: <https://orca.cardiff.ac.uk/id/eprint/164805/>

This is the author's version of a work that was submitted to / accepted for publication.

Citation for final published version:

Mills, Kimberley, Muir, Duncan D., Oldroyd, Anthony, John, Eleanor H., Santodomingo, Nadia, Johnson, Kenneth G., Hussein, Muhammad Ali Syed and Sossdian, Sindia 2023. Microstructure and crystallographic texture data in modern giant clam shells (*Tridacna squamosa* and *Hippopus hippopus*). *Data in Brief*, 109947. 10.1016/j.dib.2023.109947

Publishers page: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.dib.2023.109947>

Please note:

Changes made as a result of publishing processes such as copy-editing, formatting and page numbers may not be reflected in this version. For the definitive version of this publication, please refer to the published source. You are advised to consult the publisher's version if you wish to cite this paper.

This version is being made available in accordance with publisher policies. See <http://orca.cf.ac.uk/policies.html> for usage policies. Copyright and moral rights for publications made available in ORCA are retained by the copyright holders.





ELSEVIER

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

## Data in Brief

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/dib](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/dib)

## Data Article

# Microstructure and crystallographic texture data in modern giant clam shells (*Tridacna squamosa* and *Hippopus hippopus*)

Kimberley Mills<sup>a,\*</sup>, Duncan D. Muir<sup>a</sup>, Anthony Oldroyd<sup>a</sup>, Eleanor H. John<sup>a</sup>, Nadia Santodomingo<sup>b</sup>, Kenneth G. Johnson<sup>b</sup>, Muhammad Ali Syed Hussein<sup>c</sup>, Sindia Sossdian<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Cardiff University, School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, United Kingdom

<sup>b</sup> Natural History Museum, London, United Kingdom

<sup>c</sup> Borneo Marine Research Institute, Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia

## ARTICLE INFO

## Article history:

Received 22 March 2023

Revised 5 December 2023

Accepted 6 December 2023

Available online xxx

Dataset link: [Microstructure and crystallographic texture data from modern giant clam shells \(\*Tridacna squamosa\* and \*Hippopus hippopus\*\) \(Original data\)](#)

## Keywords:

EBSD

SEM

Bivalve shell

Microstructure

Texture

Aragonite

Coral reefs

## ABSTRACT

This article provides novel data on the microstructure and crystallographic texture of modern giant clam shells (*Tridacna squamosa* and *Hippopus hippopus*) from the Coral Triangle region of northeast Borneo. Giant clams have two aragonitic shell layers—the inner and outer shell layer. This dataset focuses on the inner shell layer as this is well preserved and not affected by diagenetic alteration. To prepare samples for analysis, shells were cut longitudinally at the axis of maximum growth and mounted onto thin sections. Data collection involved scanning electron microscopy (SEM) to determine microstructure and SEM based electron backscatter diffraction (EBSD) for quantitative measurement of crystallographic orientation and texture. Post-acquisition reanalysis of saved EBSD patterns to optimize data quality included changing the number of reflectors and band detection mode. We provide EBSD data as band contrast images and colour-coded orientation maps (inverse pole figure maps). Crystallographic co-orientation strength obtained with multiple of uniform density (MUD) values are derived from density distributed pole figures of indexed EBSD points. Raw EBSD data files are

\* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: [millsk3@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:millsk3@cardiff.ac.uk) (K. Mills).

Social media: [@kimandclams](#) (K. Mills)

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dib.2023.109947>

2352-3409/© 2023 The Author(s). Published by Elsevier Inc. This is an open access article under the CC BY license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>)

Please cite this article as: K. Mills, D.D. Muir and A. Oldroyd et al., Microstructure and crystallographic texture data in modern giant clam shells (*Tridacna squamosa* and *Hippopus hippopus*), Data in Brief, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dib.2023.109947>

also given to ensure repeatability of the steps provided in this article and to allow extraction of further crystallographic properties for future researchers. Overall, this dataset provides 1. a better understanding of shell growth and biomineralization in giant clams and 2. important steps for optimizing data collection with EBSD analyses in biogenic carbonates.

© 2023 The Author(s). Published by Elsevier Inc.

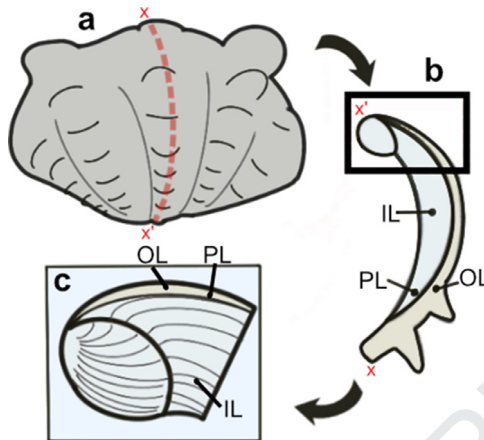
This is an open access article under the CC BY license (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>)

## 1 Specifications Table

Subject	Structural biology
Specific subject area	Microstructure and texture of marine carbonates
Data format	Raw: CRC, CPR, TIFF, M, txt Analyzed: XLSX
Type of data	Table (.XLSX) SEM images (.TIFF) EBSD band contrast images (.TIFF) EBSD grain orientation maps (.TIFF) Raw EBSD dataset files (.CRC, .CPR, .txt) Code for EBSD data analysis and plotting (.txt, .M)
Data collection	Sampling of giant clam shells ( <i>Tridacna squamosa</i> ; <i>Hippopus hippopus</i> ) was carried out within the Coral Triangle region of northeast Borneo (Sabah, Malaysia) in April 2019. Microstructural arrangements of aragonite were identified from in-lens secondary electron images acquired with a scanning electron microscope (Zeiss Sigma HD field emission gun SEM). Crystallographic and textural characterization data were collected using electron backscatter diffraction (Nordlys-2 EBSD system). EBSD measured crystallographic preferred orientations (CPO) were indexed and refined post-acquisition using AZtec 6.0 software (Oxford Instruments). EBSD band contrast images, colour-coded orientation maps (inverse pole figure maps) and pole figures were processed in AZtec Crystal 2.2 (Oxford Instruments) and MTEX toolbox 5.7.0 for MATLAB software. Crystallographic co-orientation strength was extracted from pole figures and presented as multiple of uniform density (MUD) values.
Data source location	· Institution: Universiti Malaysia Sabah · City/Town/Region: Darvel Bay, East Sabah · Country: Malaysia · Samples: <i>Tridacna squamosa</i> (SS02BCT) (4° 51' 57.2328" N, 118° 11' 34.8864" E): Triangle reef, Darvel Bay. <i>Hippopus hippopus</i> (SS01BSN) (4° 58' 57.684" N, 118° 21' 42.5268" E): Sakar reef, Darvel Bay.
Data accessibility	SEM and EBSD images are highlighted in this article. Complete datasets are found at: Repository name: Mendeley Data Data identification number: <a href="https://doi.org/10.17632/2zfgjy27wg.5">10.17632/2zfgjy27wg.5</a> Direct URL to data: <a href="https://data.mendeley.com/datasets/2zfgjy27wg/5">https://data.mendeley.com/datasets/2zfgjy27wg/5</a>

## 2 1. Value of the Data

- This dataset provides characterization of the microstructure and crystallographic texture of the shells of two species of giant clam (*Tridacna squamosa*; *Hippopus hippopus*). These data are necessary for understanding shell growth and biomineralization mechanisms in the fields of structural biology and (paleo)environmental reconstruction.
- These data provide an optimized method and guide for accurate and precise EBSD data collection in biogenic carbonates such as bivalves and corals. This method is applicable to samples with biomineral crystal sizes down to 1 µm.



**Fig. 1.** Schematic showing section location of a giant clam shell along the maximum growth axis. a) Shell valve with red vertical line indicating longitudinal cut along center. b) Longitudinal shell slice from umbo to upper shell margin highlighting the inner layer (IL), outer layer (OL) and pallial line (PL). Rectangle highlights region in c). c) Thin section 28×48 mm slide (60 μm thickness). Transect x-x' shows how cut location in image a) relates to shell slice in b).

- 10 • The dataset can benefit those who wish to improve and optimize EBSD data quality when
- 11 determining crystallographic orientation in biogenic carbonates.
- 12 • Future researchers may use the raw EBSD data provided within this article to extract further
- 13 textural and crystallographic properties of the giant clam shells. For example, the data may
- 14 be used to investigate grain boundary misorientation and provide advanced characterization
- 15 of material properties.

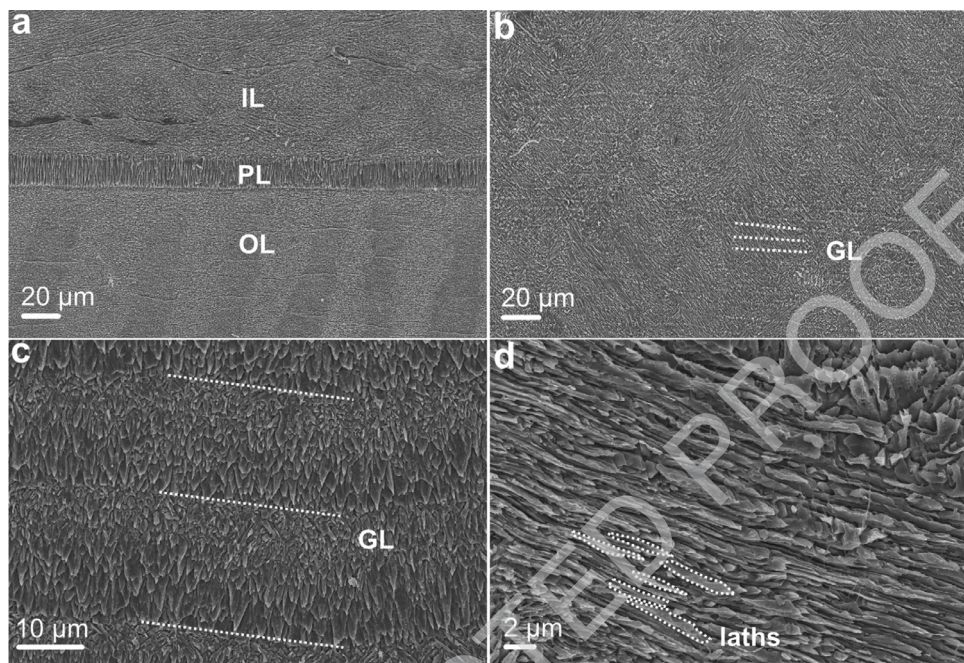
## 16 2. Background

17 Giant clams (Tridacninae) are iconic reef dwellers that fulfil critical ecological roles in tropical  
 18 coral reef communities [2]. They also serve as ultra-high-resolution bioarchives to reconstruct  
 19 past oceanographic conditions in tropical regions, where instrumental records are lacking [3].  
 20 Increased understanding of the microstructural and crystallographic architecture of giant clam  
 21 shells is fundamental to provide information on biomineralization and skeletal organization in  
 22 changing oceanic conditions [4]. In this dataset, one objective was to focus on the optimization  
 23 of EBSD data quality for aragonitic giant clam shells by providing detailed information on EBSD  
 24 data collection and post-processing steps. A second objective was to provide characterization of  
 25 microstructure and crystallographic texture in two giant clam species frequently used for (pa-  
 26 leo)environmental study (*T. squamosa*; *H. hippopus*).

## 27 3. Data Description

28 Microstructure and crystallographic texture data for the shells of the giant clams *T. squamosa*  
 29 and *H. hippopus* is presented herein. A schematic overview of sample preparation is given in  
 30 Fig. 1—shell valves were sectioned longitudinally along the maximum growth axis, cut into ~1–  
 31 2 cm thick slices and mounted onto glass slides for preparation of thin sections. SEM in-lens  
 32 secondary electron high-resolution images used for microstructural characterization of the mater-  
 33 ial are presented as TIFF images. Fig. 2 focuses on the microstructure of the inner shell layer  
 34 at a micro- to nanoscale, showing daily growth lines intersecting a complex crossed-lamellar  
 35 microstructure (Fig. 2b) and paired daily growth lines that consist of a prismatic layer adjacent





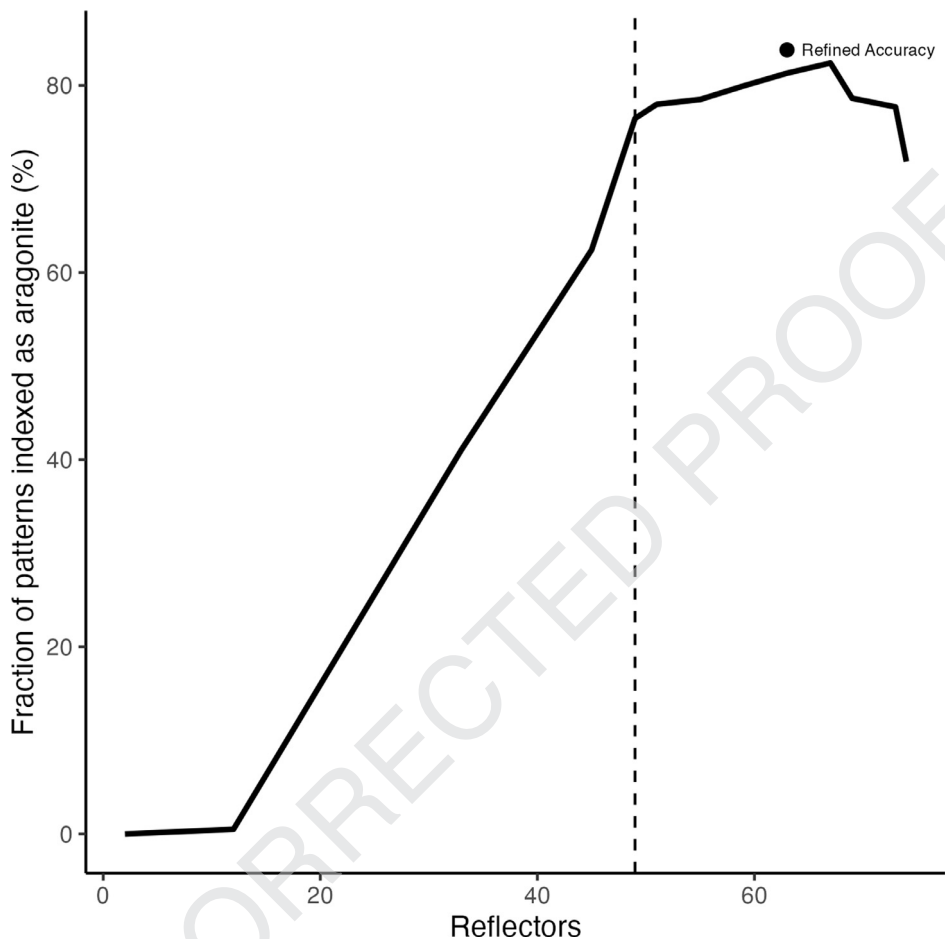
**Fig. 2.** SEM in-lens secondary electron images showing the microstructure of Tridacninae shells. IL: inner layer; OL: outer layer; PL: pallial line; GL: growth lines. a) OL and IL divided by prismatic PL (specimen SS02BCT, *Tridacna squamosa*); b) daily GL in IL running perpendicular to direction of growth in complex crossed-lamellar microstructure (specimen SS01BSN, *Hippopus hippopus*); c) paired daily GL in IL that consist of a prismatic layer adjacent to smaller crystals (specimen SS02BCT, *Tridacna squamosa*); d) third order laths (biomineral units) that stack into larger layered structures (specimen SS02BCT, *Tridacna squamosa*).

36 to smaller crystals (Fig 2c). Figs. 3–4 show post-acquisition refinement of EBSD pattern indexing  
 37 using varying numbers of reflectors (i.e. list of Kikuchi bands to be considered in the index-  
 38 ing process) and different band detection approaches (i.e. refined accuracy versus Hough-based  
 39 band detection). EBSD band contrast images are presented with associated pole figures as TIFF  
 40 images (Fig. 5), where dark pixels represent poor pattern quality and bright pixels represent high  
 41 pattern quality. EBSD preferred crystallographic orientation (CPO) data are represented as color-  
 42 coded orientation maps (TIFF images) and are shown with corresponding contoured pole figures  
 43 in Figs. 6,7. Pole figures are a stereographic projection of aragonite planes with axes defined  
 44 by an external reference frame (X, Y, Z correspond to E-W, N-S and out of plane respectively),  
 45 showing clustering of points around specific direction(s) (i.e. pole maxima). The strength of the  
 46 CPO is quantified using multiple of uniform distribution (MUD) values, which is derived from  
 47 the maximum intensity of contoured pole figures (Fig. 6,7). Orientation maps are colored ac-  
 48 cording to the inverse pole figure (IPF) color key for aragonite referenced to the Y direction of  
 49 the external reference frame, where similar colors relate to similar orientations.

50 A tabulated version of post-acquisition indexing optimization is presented in Table 1, included  
 51 in the Mendeley Data Repository as a .XLSX file. The repository also contains raw SEM EBSD files  
 52 (.CRC, .CPR, .txt) for *T. squamosa* and *H. hippopus*, along with a sample script (.M, .txt) with code  
 53 showcasing EBSD data analysis and plotting in MTEX toolbox 5.7.0 for MATLAB R2022b.

54 The files stored within the data repository are:

- 55 • SS02BCT.CRC: Raw EBSD dataset file for *Tridacna squamosa* (SS02BCT)
- 56 • SS01BSN.CRC: Raw EBSD dataset file for *Hippopus hippopus* (SS01BSN)
- 57 • SS02BCT.CPR: Raw EBSD dataset file for *Tridacna squamosa* (SS02BCT)
- 58 • SS01BSN.CPR: Raw EBSD dataset file for *Hippopus hippopus* (SS01BSN)



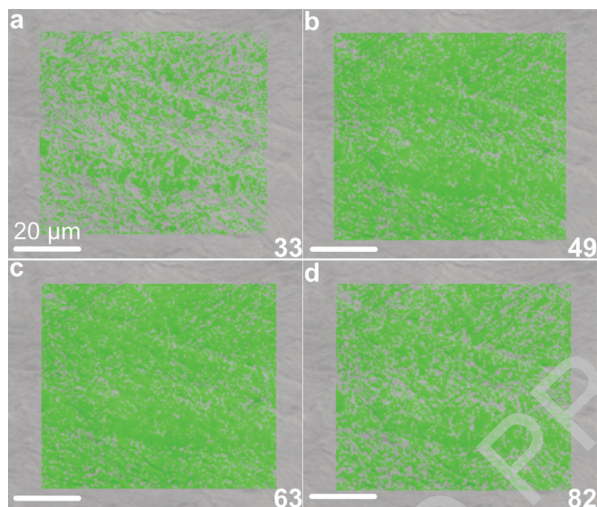
**Fig. 3.** Relationship between fraction of indexed patterns as aragonite (%) and manual selection of number of reflectors for aragonite within the OINA database in AZtec 6.0 software (Oxford Instruments). Parameters used for the indexing of the aragonite unit cell were the OINA database (space group 62 Pmcn)  $a = 4.9614 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $b = 7.9671 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $c = 5.7404 \text{ \AA}$ . Single point is the refined accuracy band detection approach at 63 reflectors compared to routine Hough-based indexing. Dashed vertical line indicates the default number of reflectors (49) the software selects for aragonite.

- 59 • SS02BCT.txt: Raw EBSD dataset file for *Tridacna squamosa* (SS02BCT)  
 60 • SS01BSN.txt: Raw EBSD dataset file for *Hippopus hippopus* (SS01BSN)  
 61 • EBSD\_Tridacnidae.M: Code for EBSD data analysis and plotting.  
 62 • EBSD\_Tridacnidae.txt: Code for EBSD data analysis and plotting.  
 63 • Reflectors.XLSX: Table of post-acquisition reanalysis of EBSD patterns stored at indexing using  
 64 manual selection of reflectors.

## 65 4. Experimental Design, Materials and Methods

### 66 4.1. Sample preparation

67 Two modern giant clam shells, *T. squamosa* (fluted giant clam) and *H. hippopus* (bear paw  
 68 clam) were collected from Darvel Bay ( $4^{\circ} 51' 57.2328'' \text{ N}$ ,  $118^{\circ} 11' 34.8864'' \text{ E}$ ;  $4^{\circ} 58' 57.684'' \text{ N}$ ,



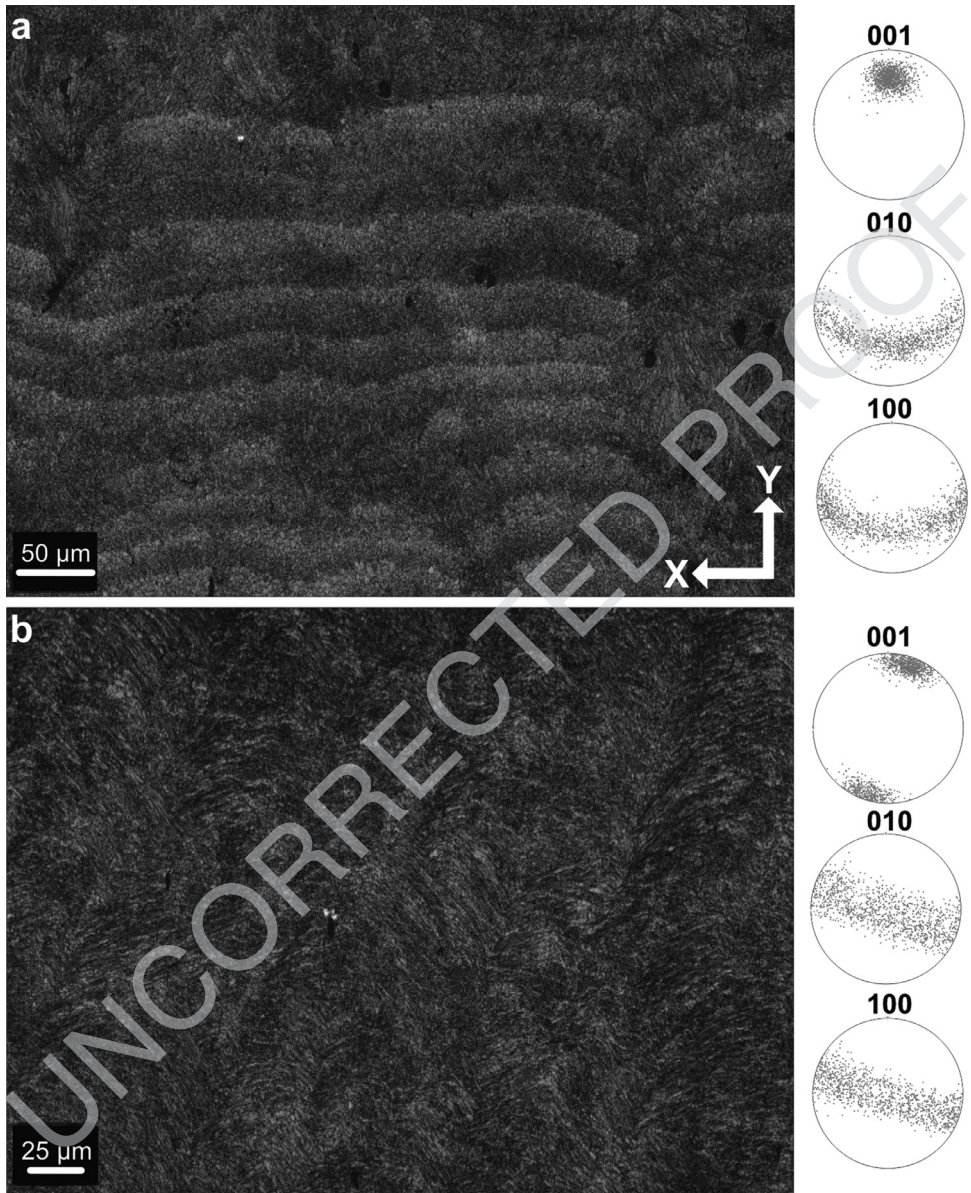
**Fig. 4.** Fraction of indexed pattern for aragonite (%) by manually selecting the number of reflectors for aragonite with the OINA database in AZtec 6.0 software (Oxford Instruments). Patterns indexed had a mean angular deviation (MAD) below  $1^\circ$  a) 33 reflectors (41.06% aragonite); b) 49 reflectors (76.48% aragonite); c) 63 reflectors (81.31% aragonite); d) 82 reflectors (64.66% aragonite). Scale bars = 20  $\mu\text{m}$ .

69  $118^\circ 21' 42.5268''$  E respectively) within the Coral Triangle region of northeast Borneo (Sabah,  
 70 Malaysia) in April 2019. The exterior of one valve of each shell was thoroughly rinsed and  
 71 scrubbed to remove dirt and debris, before being air-dried. Afterward, valves were cut into  $\sim 1$ –  
 72 2 cm thick slices along the axis of maximum growth (longitudinal from umbo to upper shell  
 73 margin) (Fig. 1a) with a HC Evans and Son (Eltham) LTD circular saw (250 mm blade, 1 mm  
 74 thickness). Thin sections ( $\sim 60 \mu\text{m}$  thickness) cut perpendicular to the direction of growth were  
 75 prepared from slices (Fig. 1b). One side of each cut slice was ground flat using silicon carbide  
 76 1000 grit. The slices were then washed, dried and stuck to  $28 \times 48$  mm frosted glass slides us-  
 77 ing Araldite 2020 epoxy resin. Excess sample was cut from the slides leaving a  $500$ – $1000 \mu\text{m}$   
 78 slice stuck to the glass. Slides were then lapped on a Logitech LP50 lapper using 600 silicon  
 79 carbide grit to leave samples at a thickness of  $100 \mu\text{m}$ . Afterward, the slides were lapped by  
 80 hand using 1000 silicon carbide grit until the required sample thickness had been reached.  
 81 Slides were washed in an ultrasonic bath and samples polished on a Logitech PM5 lapper  
 82 with  $0.3 \mu\text{m}$  aluminum oxide. After polishing slides, they were again washed in an ultrasonic  
 83 bath.

#### 84 4.2. SEM

85 Polished sections of *T. squamosa* and *H. hippopus* were etched with 0.5% HCl for 15 s to im-  
 86 prove visibility of biominerals and then rinsed for 1 min with deionized water. To dry sam-  
 87 ples, a canister of compressed air was sprayed gently across the surface of sections. Afterward,  
 88 samples were sputter coated with a 20 nm thick layer of gold-palladium alloy (Au-Pd) using a  
 89 BIO-RAD SC500 sputter coater at the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Cardiff Uni-  
 90 versity. A Zeiss Sigma HD field emission gun scanning electron microscope (FEG-SEM) at the  
 91 School of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Cardiff University, was used under high vacuum  
 92 for the characterization of aragonitic microstructures with focus on the inner shell layer of  
 93 sections. The entire height of the inner layer of sections was examined with SEM for prelim-  
 94 inary identification of microstructure across the whole surface (an area with height  $\sim 30$  mm,  
 95 length  $\sim 1$  mm). The following SEM parameters were used to obtain in-lens secondary electron

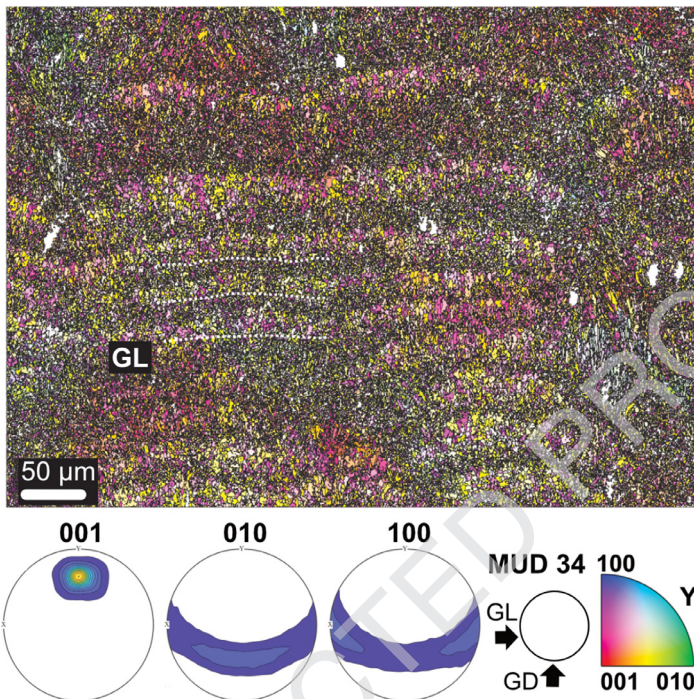




**Fig. 5.** EBSD band contrast (pattern quality) images of the inner shell layer. a) Paired daily growth lines of *Hippopus hippopus* (SS01BSN) that correspond to IPF-Y map in Fig. 6 and the highlighted microstructure in Fig. 2c; c) complex crossed-lamellar microstructure of *Tridacna squamosa* (SS02BCT) that correspond to the IPF-Y map in Fig. 7 and highlighted microstructure in Fig. 2b. Associated pole figures display density distribution for image a) and b) respectively. Pole figures show indexed aragonite points with a preferred crystallographic orientation of the 001 axis approximately orthogonal to growth lines.

96 (SE) images of different microstructures (Fig. 2): 10 kV accelerating voltage, final aperture size  
 97 30 μm with a nominal beam current of 210 pA, working distance ~9.5 mm, pixel dwell time  
 98 10 μs.



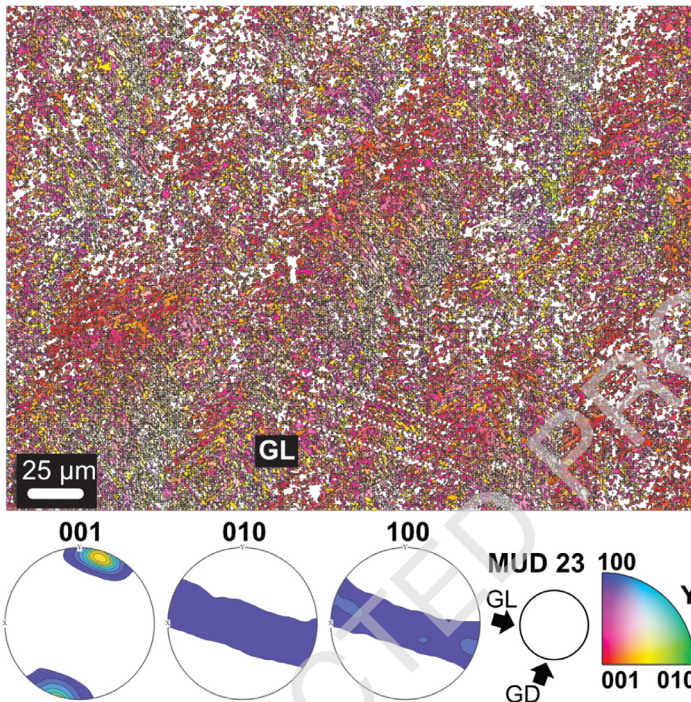


**Fig. 6.** EBSD inverse pole figure (IPF-Y) map showing the microstructure and texture of paired daily growth lines within the inner layer of a *Hippopus hippopus* shell (SS01BSN), corresponding to band contrast image in Fig. 5a. Contoured pole figures show density distribution of all points indexed as aragonite and preferred crystallographic orientation of the 001 axis. GL: growth lines, GD: growth direction. Aragonite co-orientation strength has an MUD value of 34.

### 99 4.3. EBSD

100 Areas of thin sections selected for crystallographic and textural characterization with EBSD  
 101 were based on prior microstructural identification with SEM. Sections were repolished and sub-  
 102 jected to several sequential mechanical grinding and polishing steps, including a final polish  
 103 with Logitech SF1 Polishing Suspension of colloidal silica using a Logitech PM5 automatic pol-  
 104 isher (70 rpm rotation,  $2 \times 10$  min cycles). Afterward, copper tape was applied in a rectangle  
 105 around selected areas of samples for mapping to eliminate electron charging within the high-  
 106 vacuum SEM chamber. Samples were coated with a thin uniform layer (3 nm) of carbon [5] using  
 107 a Agar Turbo Carbon Coater. Fraction of the indexed pattern for aragonite (%) was tested with  
 108 varying layers of carbon thickness between 2 and 6 nm, but 3 nm provided the strongest diffrac-  
 109 tion signal with negligible charging of the sample. EBSD mapping was carried out using a Zeiss  
 110 Sigma HD FEG-SEM equipped with a Nordlys-2 EBSD detector at the School of Earth and En-  
 111 vironmental Sciences, Cardiff University. In the SEM, samples were tilted at an angle of  $70^\circ$  at  
 112  $\sim 10$  mm working distance with  $\sim 193$ – $194$  mm detector insert distance. Diffraction patterns were  
 113 collected at a resolution of  $0.5 \mu\text{m}$  step size, 20 kV accelerating voltage,  $60 \mu\text{m}$  aperture in high  
 114 current mode with a 2.7 nA nominal beam current and  $2 \times 2$  camera ( $320 \times 240$  pixels) binning.  
 115 Total acquisition time was 27 h for SS01BSN and 12 h for SS02BCT, with map dimensions of  
 116  $1024 \times 768$  pixels and  $681 \times 510$  pixels respectively. Exposure time was 96.8 ms for SS01BSN and  
 117 127.58 ms for SS02BCT.

118 Electron backscatter patterns were indexed using Oxford Instruments AZtec 6.0 software. Pa-  
 119 rameters chosen for the indexing of the aragonite unit cell were the OINA database  $a = 4.9614 \text{ \AA}$ ,  
 120  $b = 7.9671 \text{ \AA}$ ,  $c = 5.7404 \text{ \AA}$  space group 62 Pmcn [6]. Aragonite indexed with the OINA database



**Fig. 7.** EBSD inverse pole figure (IPF-Y) map showing the complex crossed-lamellar microstructure and texture of the inner layer of a *Tridacna squamosa* shell (SS02BCT), corresponding to band contrast image in Fig. 5b. Contoured pole figures show density distribution of all points indexed as aragonite and preferred crystallographic orientation of the 001 axis. GL: growth lines, GD: growth direction. Aragonite co-orientation strength has an MUD value of 23.

121 provided pole figures with a preferred crystallographic orientation of the 001 axis orthogonal to  
 122 growth lines.

#### 123 4.4. EBSD post-acquisition refinement

124 Post-acquisition refinement to optimize index rates of aragonite was performed on data with  
 125 EBSD patterns stored at indexing using AZtec 6.0 software (Oxford Instruments). Maps were re-  
 126 analyzed changing the number of reflectors, band detection mode, Hough resolution and area  
 127 of interest (AOI). Manual selection of the number of reflectors (i.e. list of Kikuchi bands to be  
 128 considered in the indexing process) within the OINA and HKL databases ranged between 2 and  
 129 82 reflectors (Fig. 3). The relationship between fraction of indexed pattern for aragonite (%) and  
 130 reflectors peaked at 67 reflectors in the OINA database, which increased indexing by 6% com-  
 131 pared to default selection of 49 reflectors while keeping mean angular deviation (MAD) under  
 132 1° (Figs. 3–4; Table 1 in data repository). Refined accuracy band detection mode compared to  
 133 routine Hough-based indexing further increased indexing by 1–3%. Manual alteration of Hough  
 134 resolution and area of interest (AOI) did not change the percentage of indexed pattern for arag-  
 135 onite.

#### 136 4.5. EBSD data analysis

137 Data analysis was carried out in MTEX toolbox 5.7.0 for MATLAB R2022b [7]. Grains were re-  
 138 constructed using a threshold angle of 2° Minimum grain size was set to 3 pixels in comparison

139 to 10 pixels previously used for giant clam aragonite [8] because grain sizes were notably small  
140 (under 1  $\mu\text{m}$ ) in some areas. Points with mean angular deviation (MAD) over 1° were discarded  
141 and remaining grain boundaries smoothed. Zero solutions, that is missing data from parts of the  
142 sample that showed an absence of diffraction, were not interpolated to avoid over-simplification  
143 of the dataset in the presence of small grains. EBSD band contrast images, EBSD color-coded  
144 orientation maps (inverse pole figure maps) and pole figures for *T. squamosa* and *H. hippopus*  
145 were assembled using MTEX and are provided in Figs. 5–7. Pole figures were plotted on a lower  
146 hemisphere projection in the YX projection plane, with spread of the poles controlled by half-  
147 width [9]. An optimal half-width of approximately 4° for the data was computed based on the  
148 mean orientation of grains using the kernel function for orientation distribution function (ODF)  
149 estimation. Crystallographic co-orientation strength is presented as multiple of uniform density  
150 (MUD) values extracted from pole figures. The strength of the crystallographic preferred orien-  
151 tation is derived from the maximum intensity of contoured pole figures. MUD statistically mea-  
152 sures sharpness of texture and a strong crystal co-orientation will have a higher MUD value than  
153 a low or random co-orientation (e.g. [9,10]).

## 154 Limitations

155 The limitation of this dataset is that the EBSD data were generated from a singular specimen  
156 of each species investigated. This may hinder the reliable interpretation of MUD values to un-  
157 derstand the variety of crystal co-orientation strength that exists between species. However, the  
158 primary aim of this study was to provide reproducible steps for future researchers, which we  
159 have laid out in this article. By providing these steps and raw EBSD data files, we suggest future  
160 researchers add more samples to further capture diversity in crystallographic features.

## 161 Ethics statement

162 The authors state that the present work meets the ethical requirements for publication in  
163 Data in Brief. Human or animal experiments were not conducted and social media data was not  
164 collected.

## 165 Uncited references

166 [1].

## Data Availability

Microstructure and crystallographic texture data from modern giant clam shells (*Tridacna squamosa* and *Hippopus hippopus*) (Original data) (Mendeley Data)

## 167 CRediT Author Statement

168 **Kimberley Mills:** Conceptualization, Methodology, Investigation, Visualization, Writing – orig-  
169 inal draft; **Duncan D. Muir:** Conceptualization, Methodology, Investigation, Writing – review &  
170 editing; **Anthony Oldroyd:** Resources, Writing – review & editing; **Eleanor H. John:** Concep-  
171 tualization, Writing – review & editing; **Nadia Santodomingo:** Resources, Funding acquisition;  
172 **Kenneth G. Johnson:** Resources, Funding acquisition; **Muhammad Ali Syed Hussein:** Resources;  
173 **Sindia Sosdian:** Conceptualization, Writing – review & editing, Funding acquisition.

## 174 Acknowledgments

175 Thanks to the Borneo Marine Research Institute (University Malaysia Sabah) for hosting  
 176 our research and Dominic Monteroso (Darvel Bay Diving Centre) for assistance with fieldwork.  
 177 Thanks to Allia Rosedy and Zarinah Waheed for help with sample collection, permits applica-  
 178 tion, and other key research and logistic aspects of the project. Giant clams are CITES appendix  
 179 II listed species and shells were permitted accordingly for export purposes. Funding: This work  
 180 was funded by **NERC (UK National Environmental Research Council)** through the Project “Reef  
 181 refugia out of the shadows: dynamics of marginal coral reef ecosystems over the past 30 million  
 182 years in the Coral Triangle” [NE/R/11044/1] and the **UKRI project EP/V520834/1**. Kimberley Mills  
 183 is a PhD researcher funded by **NERC GW4+**. This study was performed under Access Licence  
 184 **JKM/MBS.1000- 2/2 JLD.7(161)** granted by the Sabah Biodiversity Conservation Centre (SaBC) and  
 185 Research Permit **UPE 40/200/193533** granted by the Economic Planning Unit, **Ministry of Eco-**  
 186 **nomic Affairs**, Malaysian Government. This is Cardiff EARTH CRediT Contribution 14.

## 187 Declaration Competing of Interest

188 The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal rela-  
 189 tionships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

## 190 References

- 191 [1] K. Mills, J. Microstructure and crystallographic texture data from modern giant clam shells (*Tridacna squamosa* and  
 192 *Hippopus hippopus*) [Data set]. <https://doi.org/10.17632/2ZFGJY27WG.5>.
- 193 [2] M.L. Neo, W. Eckman, K. Vicentuan, S.L.-M. Teo, P.A. Todd, The ecological significance of giant clams in coral reef  
 194 ecosystems, *Biol. Conserv.* 181 (2015) 111–123, doi:10.1016/j.biocon.2014.11.004.
- 195 [3] Y. Sano, S. Kobayashi, K. Shirai, N. Takahata, K. Matsumoto, T. Watanabe, K. Sowa, K. Iwai, Past daily light cycle  
 196 recorded in the strontium/calcium ratios of giant clam shells, *Nat. Commun.* 3 (2012) 761, doi:10.1038/ncomms1763.
- 197 [4] F. Mastropietro, P. Godard, M. Burghammer, C. Chevallard, J. Daillant, J. Duboisset, M. Allain, P. Guenoun, J. Nouet,  
 198 V. Chamard, Revealing crystalline domains in a mollusc shell single-crystalline prism, *Nat. Mater.* 16 (2017) 946–  
 199 952, doi:10.1038/nmat4937.
- 200 [5] A. Pérez-Huerta, M. Cusack, Optimizing electron backscatter diffraction of carbonate biominerals—resin type and  
 201 carbon coating, *Microsc. Microanal.* 15 (2009) 197–203, doi:10.1017/S1431927609090370.
- 202 [6] J.P.R. De Villiers, Crystal structures of aragonite, strontianite, and witherite, *Am. Mineral.* 56 (1971) 758–767.
- 203 [7] D. Mainprice, R. Hielscher, H. Schaeben, Calculating anisotropic physical properties from texture data using the  
 204 MTEX open-source package, *SP 360* (2011) 175–192, doi:10.1144/SP360.10.
- 205 [8] O.B.A. Agbaje, R. Wirth, L.F.G. Morales, K. Shirai, M. Kosnik, T. Watanabe, D.E. Jacob, Architecture of crossed-lamellar  
 206 bivalve shells: the southern giant clam (*Tridacna derasa*, Röding, 1798), *R. Soc. Open Sci.* 4 (2017) 170622, doi:10.  
 207 1098/rsos.170622.
- 208 [9] G. Crippa, Orientation patterns of aragonitic crossed-lamellar, fibrous prismatic and myostracal microstructures of  
 209 modern *Glycymeris* shells, *J. Struct. Biol.* (2020) 19.
- 210 [10] L.A. Casella, E. Griesshaber, M. Simonet Roda, A. Ziegler, V. Mavromatis, D. Henkel, J. Laudien, V. Häussermann,  
 211 R.D. Neuser, L. Angiolini, M. Dietzel, A. Eisenhauer, A. Immenhauser, U. Brand, W.W. Schmahl, Micro- and nano-  
 212 structures reflect the degree of diagenetic alteration in modern and fossil brachiopod shell calcite: a multi-  
 213 analytical screening approach (CL, FE-SEM, AFM, EBSD), *Palaeogeogr. Palaeoclimatol. Palaeoecol.* 502 (2018) 13–30,  
 214 doi:10.1016/j.palaeo.2018.03.011.

215