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STUDIES ON TRACE METAL AND CHEMICAL CONSTITUENTS OF
ASCIDIAN *ASCIDIA POLYTREMA*

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Trace metal contents (Fe, V, Cu) of the Ascidian (*Ascidia polytrema*) have been estimated. It was found that the tunic of this species contained higher levels of iron, less of vanadium and traces of copper. In contrast the other components were characterised by a total absence of vanadium and lower levels of iron.

Solvent extraction studies of the macerated tunicate material showed that most of the vanadium was either bound to lipids or pigments. Iron was found to be organically bound in tunicchrome and was characterised λ_{\max} at 660 nm. This data is compared with other reported iron-binding system, *Ferroverdin*, and shown to be closely similar. The significance of these studies in bioinorganic chemistry will be discussed.