



MarLIN

Marine Information Network

Information on the species and habitats around the coasts and sea of the British Isles

A sipunculid worm (*Nephasoma (Nephasoma) rimicola*)

MarLIN – Marine Life Information Network
Marine Evidence-based Sensitivity Assessment (MarESA) Review

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A report from:

The Marine Life Information Network, Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom.

Please note. This MarESA report is a dated version of the online review. Please refer to the website for the most up-to-date version [<https://www.marlin.ac.uk/species/detail/120>]. All terms and the MarESA methodology are outlined on the website (<https://www.marlin.ac.uk>)

This review can be cited as:

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See online review for
distribution map

Distribution data supplied by the Ocean
Biogeographic Information System (OBIS). To
interrogate UK data visit the NBN Atlas.

Researched by	Morvan Barnes	Refereed by	Admin
Authority	(Gibbs, 1973)		
Other common names	-	Synonyms	-

Summary

🔍 Description

Nephasoma rimicola, like all sipunculid worms, has an unsegmented body consisting of an introvert and a trunk. The introvert can be withdrawn into the trunk. The mouth, which is on the end of the introvert, is surrounded by up to 16 tentacles. *Nephasoma rimicola*, has a trunk at least three times as long as it is wide, about the same length of the introvert. The introvert is covered by many spine-like hooks at the anterior end. The body may reach up to 6 cm in length and colouration is extremely variable. *Nephasoma rimicola* has well formed oral tentacles and the introvert hooks are arranged in rings.

📍 Recorded distribution in Britain and Ireland

Found at several locations of the south-west coasts of Britain, including the mouth of the Exe estuary, Bideford in north Devon and Milford Haven on south coast of Pembrokeshire and west of the Isle of Wight.

📍 Global distribution

-

 **Habitat**

Nephasoma rimicola is a benthic species often found in lower shore rock crevices.

 **Depth range**

-

 **Identifying features**

- Up to 6 cm in length.
- Trunk without shields.
- Well formed tentacles entirely surround the mouth.
- Dorsal pair of retractor muscles are absent.
- Two internal kidney-like organs (nephridia).
- Nephridiopores anterior to anus.

 **Additional information**

Unlike *Nephasoma minutum*, *Nephasoma rimicola* has well formed oral tentacles and the introvert hooks are arranged in rings (Cutler, 1994).

 **Listed by** **Further information sources**

Search on:

    **NBN WoRMS**

Bibliography

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Gibbs, P.E., 1986. The taxonomy of some little-known Sipuncula from the North-East Atlantic region including new records. *Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom*, **66**, 335-341

Hayward, P.J. & Ryland, J.S. (ed.) 1995b. *Handbook of the marine fauna of North-West Europe*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Howson, C.M. & Picton, B.E., 1997. *The species directory of the marine fauna and flora of the British Isles and surrounding seas*. Belfast: Ulster Museum. [Ulster Museum publication, no. 276.]

Datasets

NBN (National Biodiversity Network) Atlas. Available from: <https://www.nbnatlas.org>.

OBIS (Ocean Biogeographic Information System), 2019. Global map of species distribution using gridded data. Available from: Ocean Biogeographic Information System. www.iobis.org. Accessed: 2019-03-12