



MarLIN

Marine Information Network

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

A sea cucumber (*Labidoplax media*)

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

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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/1557>]. 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	Dr Harvey Tyler-Walters	Refereed by	Admin
Authority	Östergren, 1905		
Other common names	-	Synonyms	-

Summary

Description

A small worm-like sea cucumber, 2 -4 cm in length, lacking tube feet or respiratory trees. The body wall is transparent but bears small brown glandular papillae. Five prominent opaque bands (the longitudinal muscles) are visible through the transparent body wall. The mouth is surrounded by 12 tentacles, of similar size, each bearing four digits. Gonads consist of two simple branched tubules in the coelum.

Recorded distribution in Britain and Ireland

Recorded from the Quoile estuary in Strangford Lough, Northern Ireland and from similar sheltered habitats in the sea lochs of western Scotland.

Global distribution

Originally described from Bergen, Norway. Recently recorded from the Adriatic in the Mediterranean. No other records found.

Habitat

Lives near the surface or just buried in soft, fine glutinous mud in shallow, extremely sheltered conditions, such as the sheltered basins of lagoons and sea lochs.

↓ Depth range

-

🔍 Identifying features

- Tube feet and respiratory trees absent.
- Anchor and anchor plate spicules only present (no wheel or sigmoid spicules found).
- Anchor plates regular in shape and narrowed into a distinct handle forming a racket shape.
- 12 digitate tentacles, each with four digits.
- Small, 2-4cm in length.
- Gonadial tubules branched.

🏛️ Additional information

Labidoplax media may be synonymous with *Labidoplax buskii* (Ostergren, 1905) (Howson & Picton, 1999). Gotto & Gotto (1972) stated that *Labidoplax media* can be distinguished from *Labidoplax buskii* by the presence of 12 tentacles (rather than 11), four tentacular digits (rather than 5) and the branched gonadial tubules. A full description of *Labidoplax media* is provided by Gotto & Gotto (1972) and keys to synaptids by Clark (1907) and Mortensen (1927).

✓ Listed by



🔗 Further information sources

Search on:



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