



MarLIN

Marine Information Network

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

Long snouted seahorse (*Hippocampus guttulatus*)

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

Anna Neish

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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/1891>]. 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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DOI <https://dx.doi.org/10.17031/marlin.sp.1891.1>



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Hippocampus guttulatus with Snakelocks anemone (*Anemonia viridis*) attached to eelgrass
 Photographer: Andy Pearson
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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	Anna Neish	Refereed by	Admin
Authority	Cuvier, 1829		
Other common names	-	Synonyms	<i>Hippocampus ramulosus</i> Cuvier, 1829

Summary

🔍 Description

Hippocampus guttulatus can be up to 15 cm in length and has a long snout. The fleshy protuberances on the back of the neck, from the head to dorsal fin, give an appearance of a 'mane'. It can be coloured from greenish-yellow through to reddish-brown and often mimics the colour of associated vegetation. It is speckled with bluish-white spots and flecks and its body rings carry bony tubercles giving it an angular, knobby appearance.

📍 Recorded distribution in Britain and Ireland

Recorded from the south coast of England and south west coasts of Wales.

📍 Global distribution

Recorded from the Netherlands, along the east Atlantic coast of Europe south to Morocco and Senegal, and from Italy, Malta, Croatia, Greece and Cyprus in the Mediterranean.

 **Habitat**

Present in shallow waters, especially amongst algae and seagrasses, clinging by the tail or swimming upright.

 **Depth range**

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 **Identifying features**

- Body up to 15 cm in length.
- Long snout, more than one third the length of the head.
- Fleshy strands, mane from head to dorsal fin.
- Pectoral fin has 15-18 rays.
- Dorsal fin has 18-21 rays.
- Anal fin minute and not at deepest part of belly but more towards tail.
- Bony tubercles on body.

 **Additional information**

Other common names include the 'spiny seahorse' or the 'many branched seahorse'. The long snouted seahorse is one of two species of seahorses found in the British Isles; the other is [Hippocampus hippocampus](#), which can be distinguished by a shorter snout and the lack of elongated protuberances along the back of the neck. Their distribution around the British Isles has been recently revised by the British Seahorse Survey (Garrick-Maidment & Jones, 2004).

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

Search on:



Bibliography

Garrick-Maidment, N. & Jones, L., 2004. British seahorse survey report 2004. Report by the Seahorse Trust, Devon, England.

Lourie, S.A., Vincent, A.C.J. & Hall, H.J., 1999. *Seahorses: an identification guide to the world's species and their conservation*. London: Project Seahorse.

Datasets

National Trust, 2017. National Trust Species Records. Occurrence dataset: <https://doi.org/10.15468/opc6g1> accessed via GBIF.org on 2018-10-01.

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