



# MarLIN

## Marine Information Network

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

## A filigree worm (*Filograna implexa*)

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/20>]. 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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Small colony of the filigree worm.  
 Photographer: Keith Hiscock  
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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	Saskiya Richards	Refereed by	Admin
Authority	Berkeley, 1835		
Other common names	-	Synonyms	-

## Summary

### 🔍 Description

*Filigrana implexa* has a translucent, pinkish-grey body up to 0.4-0.5 cm in length. It forms a thin, translucent white tube marked by thin growth rings from which it extends its tentacles and is normally found in colonies of large numbers. The body has up to 35 chaetae-bearing segments divided into a membrane-covered thoracic region of 6-9 segments and abdominal region. An unsegmented region that does not have chaetae separates the thorax and abdomen. The abdominal chaetae are smaller than the thoracic which develop a sickle-shaped towards the posterior end. Each segment also bears a pair of small, toothed, rasp-shaped plates (uncini) attached to the parapoda that are smaller in the abdominal region than in the thoracic region. The head bears two eyes and has two lobes each bearing four colourless, white or pinkish pinnate tentacles. Two of the eight tentacles, one on each side have a distinctive pale yellow, cup-shaped operculum. The base of the tentacles is surrounded by a toothed collar that has finely serrated chaetae and is notched on the ventral surface.

### 📍 Recorded distribution in Britain and Ireland

*Filigrana implexa* is locally abundant on the coasts of Ireland and the southwest and west of Britain. It has been recorded less frequently on the northeast coast of Britain.

### 📍 Global distribution

*Filograna implexa* is widespread in northwest Europe, the mediterranean, Japan and the Artic.

### Habitat

*Filograna implexus* encrusts bryozoans, corals, *Laminaria* holdfasts, and a variety of hard substrata including rock crevices, pebbles, stones, shells and sand on the lower shore and in the sublittoral zone.

### ↓ Depth range

-

### 🔍 Identifying features

- Network of thin long whitish tubes.
- Greyish-pink translucent body up to 0.4-0.5 cm in length and divided into approximately 35 chaetae-bearing segments.
- Two yellow cup-shaped opercula on tentacles.
- Eight colourless, white or pinkish feather-like tentacles.
- Unsegmented chaetae-less region between thorax and abdomen.

### Additional information

*Filograna implexus* is a filter-feeder. Individuals are gonochoristic and reproduce via a pelagic larval stage throughout July, August and September. *Filograna implexus* also reproduces by asexual budding. This species can be mistaken for *Salmacina dysteri* which lacks the distinctive cup-shaped operculum.

### ✓ Listed by

### Further information sources

Search on:

    NBN WoRMS

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