



MarLIN

Marine Information Network

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

A sea slug (*Tritonia hombergii*)

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/2114>]. 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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Tritonia hombergii with eggs.

Photographer: Sue Scott

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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	Jessica Heard	Refereed by	Admin
Authority	Cuvier, 1803		
Other common names	-	Synonyms	<i>Tritonia hombergii</i> , <i>Tritonia hombergii</i>

Summary

🔍 Description

Tritonia hombergii is the largest British nudibranch growing up to 20 cm in length. The body varies in colour from white to a dark purple brown and is lighter ventrally (colour darkens with age). The rhinophores are branched at the tip with basal sheaths. The mantle is covered with numerous soft tubercles, which release an irritant compound. On the sides of the upper surface there are noticeable gills, of varying size. The larger gills orientate towards the centre of the body while smaller gills flex out to the side. The total number of individual gills increases significantly with age. The front section of the head (the oral veil) is divided into two lobes and, characteristically for members of the genus *Tritonia*, each lobe is divided into numerous finger-like projections.

📍 Recorded distribution in Britain and Ireland

Occurs all around the Britain and Ireland

📍 Global distribution

Recorded from the coasts of the British Isles and the Channel coast of France, with scattered

records in the North Sea and east into the Skagerrak.

Habitat

Tritonia hombergii can be found down to depths of 80 m and is always associated with the soft coral *Alcyonium digitatum*.

↓ Depth range

0-80 m

Q Identifying features

- Body colour white to dark purple
- Rhinophores branched at the tips and have basal sheaths.
- Surface covered in numerous tubercles
- Gills of vary size, large gills point towards centre of body, small gills point outwards.
- Oral veil split into two lobes, each richly frilled.

Additional information

Tritonia hombergii has annual life cycle and the juveniles were once thought to be a different species known as *Tritonia alba*. *Tritonia hombergii* is one of the few opisthobranchs thought to be harmful to man as its secretion has been reported to cause the skin to blister. However, there have been no recent recorded evidence of this (Thompson & Brown, 1976).

✓ Listed by

Further information sources

Search on:

   

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