



# MarLIN

## Marine Information Network

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

## A bristleworm (*Magelona filiformis*)

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/21>]. 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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*Magelona filiformis* highlighting transparent body wall and pale pink gut.

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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.

<b>Researched by</b>	Saskiya Richards	<b>Refereed by</b>	Admin
<b>Authority</b>	Wilson, 1959		
<b>Other common names</b>	-	<b>Synonyms</b>	-

## Summary

### 🔍 Description

*Magelona filiformis* is a thin, thread-like segmented worm that reaches lengths of up to 8-10 cm and is either translucent, pink (mature females) or white (mature males). The body is divided into a head, 8-segmented thorax, abdomen of approximately 130 segments and a terminal pygidium. The head consists of a flattened, elongated, prostomium with small horns, a globular-shaped proboscis, a pair of palps and a long thin tentacle either side bearing two rows of papillae. The first segment adjacent to the head lacks chaetae or parapodia. Either side of the thoracic segments each bear foliose lobes dorsally, 15 dorsal chaetae and 10 ventral chaetae. The ninth chaetiger divides the thorax and abdomen, bears foliose lobes both dorsally and ventrally and is distinguished by the presence of 25-30 chaetae on both parapodia. Abdominal segments each bear widely-spaced foliose notopodial and neuropodial lobes with a short cirrus and row of horns and short rod-like dorsal and ventral lobes. Towards the posterior of the abdomen the neuropodia and notopodia are positioned increasingly to the posterior end of each segment. The most posterior end of the body is tapered into a pygidium bearing two anal cirri.

### 📍 Recorded distribution in Britain and Ireland

*Magelona filiformis* is widespread on the coasts of Britain and Northern Ireland.

### 📍 Global distribution

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 **Habitat**

*Magelona filiformis* forms fragile tubes in clean to muddy sand on the lower shore.

 **Depth range**

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 **Identifying features**

- Long, thread-like body of approximately 140 segments.
- Body grows up to 5-10 cm.
- Long, slender tentacles either side of head bearing two rows of papillae.
- Proboscis globular-shaped when everted.
- Eyes absent.
- Thoracic segments bear 15 dorsal chaetae and 10 ventral chaetae.
- Distinctive ninth segment bears 25-30 chaetae both dorsally and ventrally.
- Abdominal segments without chaetae bundles.
- Foliose lobes present both dorsally and ventrally on ninth and abdominal segments but only dorsally on thoracic segments.

 **Additional information**

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

Search on:

    **NBN WoRMS**

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## Datasets

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