

Sabella spallanzanii European fan worm

Phylum: Annelida
Class: Polychaeta
Order: Sabellida
Family: Sabellidae

Synonymised Taxa

Corallina Tubularia-Melitensis Ellis, 1755
Sabella penicillus Linnaeus, 1767
Serpula penicillus Linnaeus, 1758
Spirographis spallanzanii Viviani, 1805
Amphitrite ventilabrum
Distylia josephina
Sabella (Spirographis) spallan
Sabella gracillima
Sabella spallanzani
Sabella unispira
Sabella ventilabrum
Scolopendra major, tubularia
Spirographis braziliensis
Spirographis elegans
Spirographis gracilis
Spirographis imperialis
Spirographis januarii

Spirographis longispira
Spirographis nobilis
Spirographis simplex
Spirographis spallanzani
Teredo melitensis
Tubularia spallanzanii



Habitat

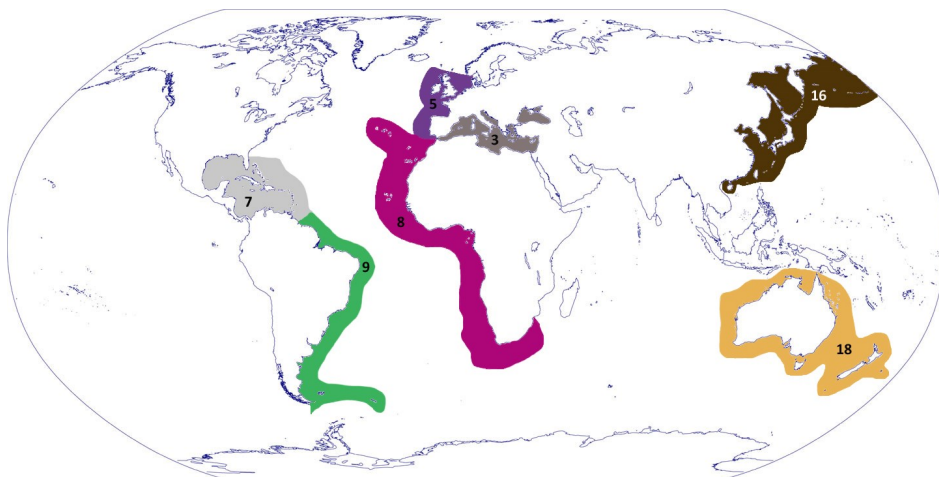
This annelid prefers shallow subtidal areas with little wave energy and found as deep as 30 m. It will attach to both hard and soft substrates including any artificial structure, seagrass and living mollusca. It will colonise in high densities and is most successful in waters which are high in organic and planktonic matter.

Larval Period

Planktonic larvae will settle after 21 days.

Distribution (Bioregions)

Native: 3, 5, 8 **Introduced:** 7, 9, 16, 18 (NZ, NSW, Vic, Tas, SA, Sth WA)



Temperature Tolerance

2 to 29°C

Salinity Range

26 to 39 ppt

Size

Up to 400 mm

Lists

- CCIMPE
- Woodside
- WA species of concern

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Key Features

- This species constructs a leathery tube, consisting of mucus and mud. It is 300 to 600 mm long, 10 to 25 mm wide and has no seal;
- The anterior end has a **branchial crown consisting of 2 branchial lobes. One lobe is spiralled (anti-clockwise) and the other is C-shaped.** The branchial lobes are fused dorsally and consist of numerous radioles (more than 8 pairs);
- The radioles vary in colour from white to fawn through to orange or bands of red-ish brown;
- Radiolar eyes are absent;
- The thorax consists of 8 segments;
- The **ventral shield is separated from the neuropodial tori in the anterior segments, but joined in the posterior segments of the thorax;**
- Thoracic and abdominal **interramal eye spots are present;**
- The **abdominal neurochaetae appear spiralled, when looked at end on;**
- Pygidial eyes anal depression absent;
- This species has regenerative capabilities.

