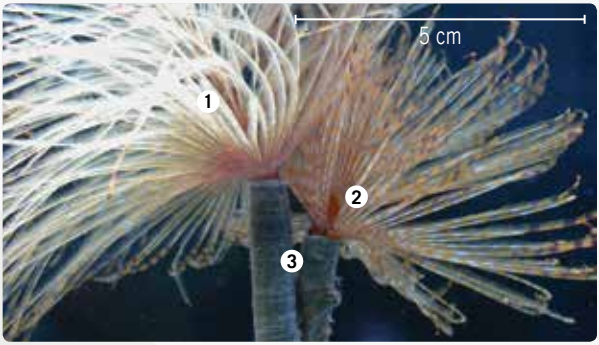
MEDITERRANEAN FANWORM

Sabella spallanzanii

Key features

❶ Single spiral crown of elongated filaments projects from tube

❷ Spiral appears yellow-orange, made of bands of white, yellow and brown

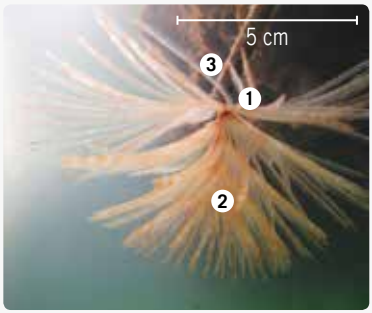


Geoff Read

❸ Tube is brown to grey, finely banded, muddy-looking, made of a leathery, flexible material; normally 10–50 cm but rarely up to 1 m long

❹ Bristle lobes on body segments with bristles set in a spiral pattern (evident when worm removed from tube)

❺ Tubes may be evident at low tide



Serena Wilkens

❻ Can form dense clumps of many individuals, creating a large area of feeding fans

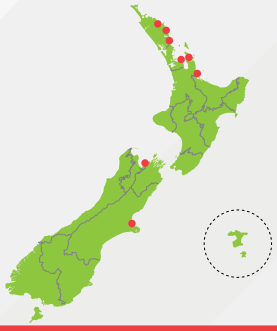
Richard Taylor

Habitat

- Low tide to 30 m depth
- Sheltered harbours to semi-exposed rocky coasts and reefs
- Wharves, pontoons and aquaculture structures
- Boat hulls
- Attaches to hard surfaces in soft sediments
- Prefers polluted/nutrient-enriched waters

Impact

- Can form dense colonies (1000 individuals per m^2)
- Displaces native and fisheries species
- Highly effective filter-feeder
- Preys on larvae of fisheries species
- Disrupts natural ecological balance
- Fouls boats, aquaculture installations and other marine structures



Report if found outside known locations

0800 80 99 66

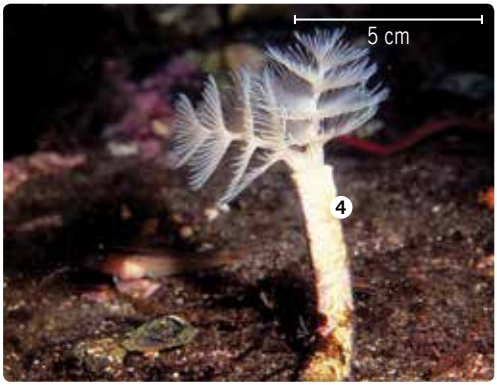
NATIVE SPECIES THAT LOOK SIMILAR

Geoff Read

How to differentiate *Sabella spallanzanii* from**:**

Native sabellid and serpulid tubeworms

Department of Conservation



Ken Grange

1. No native sabellids have a banded yellow-orange crown like *Sabella spallanzanii*
2. Native sabellids have a non-elongate, more flower-like, denser crown, not usually spiralled; and none of them have spiralled body bristles
3. All native sabellid fanworms are smaller, with tubes rarely longer than 20 cm
4. All serpulid fanworms have a hard whitish calcareous tube that is attached to the substrate along much or all of its length; *Sabella* has a flexible tube and is only attached at one end