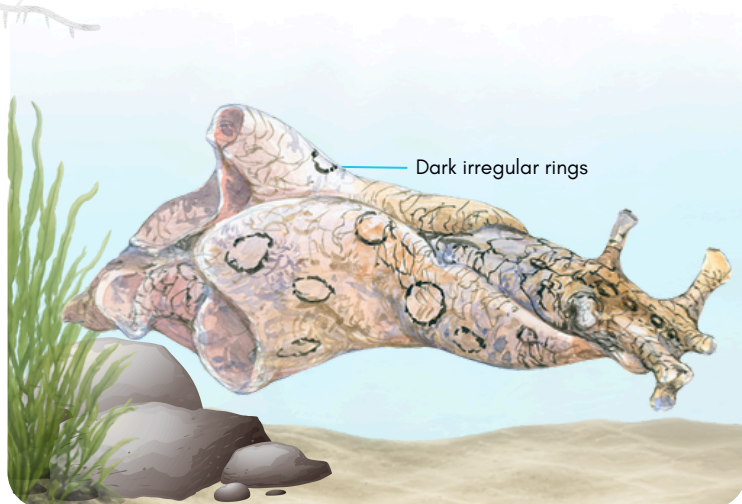
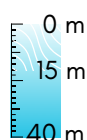
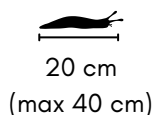


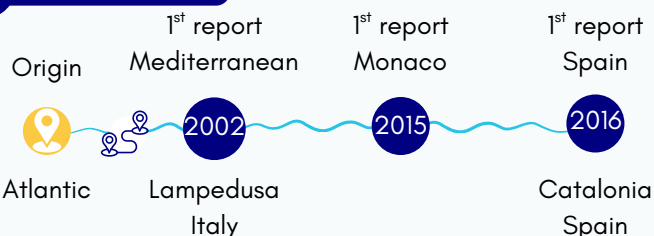
Spotted sea hare - *Aplysia dactylomela*



Herbivorous



ITS HISTORY



Migration through the Strait of Gibraltar

ECOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS

In the Mediterranean, the spotted sea hare poses an ecological threat due to its **rapid colonization** of intact habitats, including essential *Posidonia oceanica* seagrass beds, and its **voracious, generalist feeding** on **native macroalgae**. By sequestering **dietary toxins** from algae, it effectively **deters** local predators, allowing it to establish **dense populations** that **disrupt** local **biodiversity** and **ecosystem functions**.

FUN FACTS

Recycles **plant toxins** into **chemical defense**

Under threat, secretes a defensive **purple ink**

Can produce **100 million** eggs per year

IDENTIFICATION CRITERIA

Body: No external shell, smooth, oval, and arched in the middle, 2 parapodia, 2 rhinophores on the head, and 2 oral tentacles

Color: Beige to pale yellow with **black rings**



SIMILAR SPECIES

Dotted sea hare - *Aplysia punctata*



Pink or brown spots

Depilatory sea hare - *Aplysia depilans*



Dark marbling

Report your observation

MINKA

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