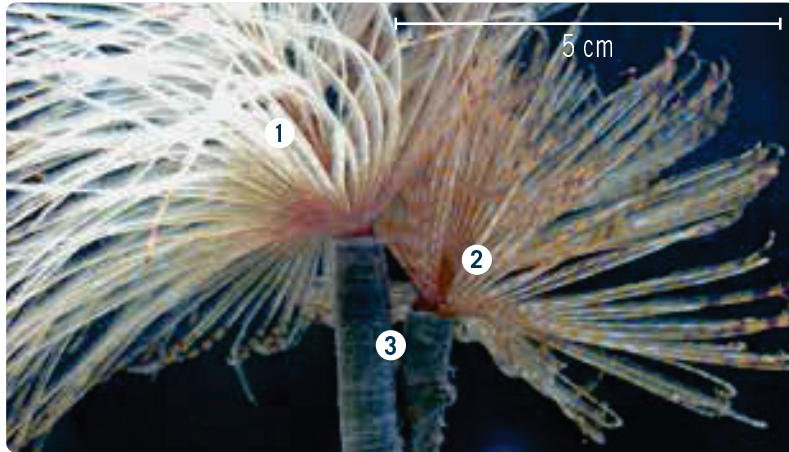


MEDITERRANEAN FANWORM

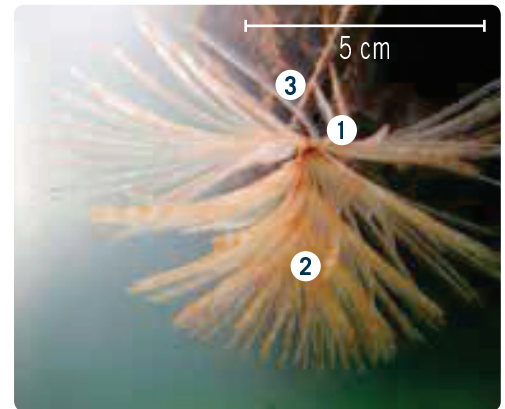
Sabella spallanzanii

Key features

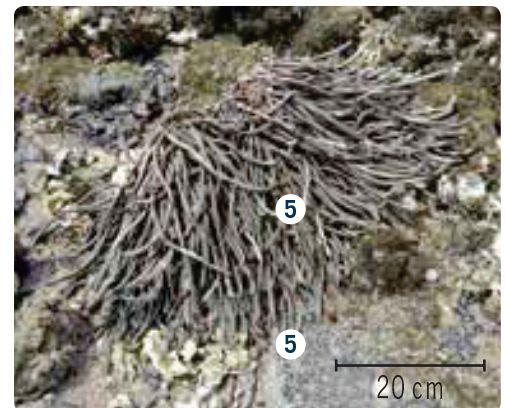
- 1 Single spiral crown of elongated filaments projects from tube
- 2 Spiral appears yellow-orange, made of bands of white, yellow and brown



- 3 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
 - 4 Bristle lobes on body
 - 5 Tubes may be evident at low tide
- segments with bristles set in a spiral pattern (evident when worm removed from tube)



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

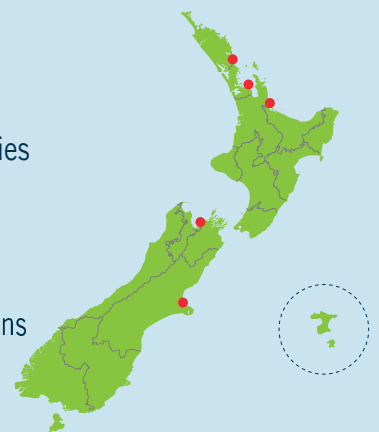


Habitat

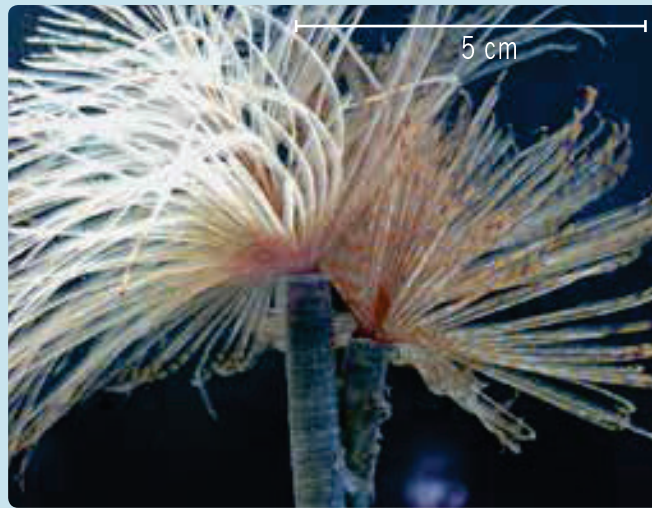
- Low tide to 30 m depth
- Sheltered harbours to semi-exposed rocky coasts and reefs
- Wharves, pontoons and aquaculture structures
- Boat hulls
- Attaches to hard surfaces in soft sediments
- Prefers polluted/nutrient-enriched waters

Impact

- Can form dense colonies (1000 individuals per m²)
- 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



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

To report suspected marine pests or diseases call
0800 80 99 66