

Disclaimer

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Rare Sea Slug Found in UK

A rare sea slug has been spotted in the Isles of Scilly. This is believed to be the first **confirmed** sighting of the creature in the UK. This rainbow-coloured slug, known as 'Babakina anadoni', has previously been found off the coast of Spain.



Illustration: Babakina anadoni.

What is a 'nudibranch'?

- A nudibranch is a **marine mollusc** without a shell. They are often called 'sea slugs'.
- These sea slugs are very similar to the slugs you might find in the garden or outdoors. However, they are brightly coloured!

Sightings of these brightly-coloured creatures are uncommon and records show that it has only ever been spotted a few times! Allen Murray volunteers for the Cornwall Wildlife Trust. He was taking part in their 'National Marine Week' when he came across the eye-catching mollusc. Matt Slater, who works at Cornwall Wildlife Trust, said: "It's one of the prettiest sea slugs I've seen". He went on to add: "given it's less than half the size of your little finger, it's amazing Allen spotted it at all!" The 'Babakina anadoni' measures just 2cm in length so could easily have been missed by the diver.

Who knows what they will 'sea' next in UK waters?

Glossary

- marine** The sea and the living creatures within it.
- mollusc** A soft-bodied creature that usually has a shell.
- confirmed** Something that has been agreed.

Reflect

What is the most exciting thing you have ever found?



Questions

1. Using the fact box in the article, explain what a nudibranch is in your own words.

2. Using information from the article, fill in the missing words to complete the sentence.
The 'Babakina anadoni' was _____ by Allen Murray who is a _____ for the Cornwall Wildlife Trust.

3. Read the following sentence: **Who knows what they will 'sea' next?** Why has the author included this spelling of 'sea' here?

4. Tick to show whether the statement is true or false according to the article.

| | True | False |
|---|------|-------|
| A nudibranch is a creature that usually has a shell. | | |
| The Isles of Scilly is in the UK. | | |
| 'Babakina anadoni' are usually found off the coast of France. | | |
| Sea slugs are the same colour as slugs you find on land. | | |