

Disclaimer

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Rare Sea Slug Found in UK

What is a 'nudibranch'?

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

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.

Sightings of these slugs are uncommon; records show that it has only ever been spotted a few times!

Allen Murray volunteers for the Cornwall Wildlife Trust. He was participating in their 'National Marine Week' when he came across the eye-catching creature.

Murray was diving close to an **uninhabited** island when he caught sight of it.

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.

Luckily for Murray, he didn't get too close to the creature. The Cornwall Wildlife Trust say that these slugs can sting. The clever creatures are able to absorb stinging cells from their prey into their own bodies and use it when **threatened**.

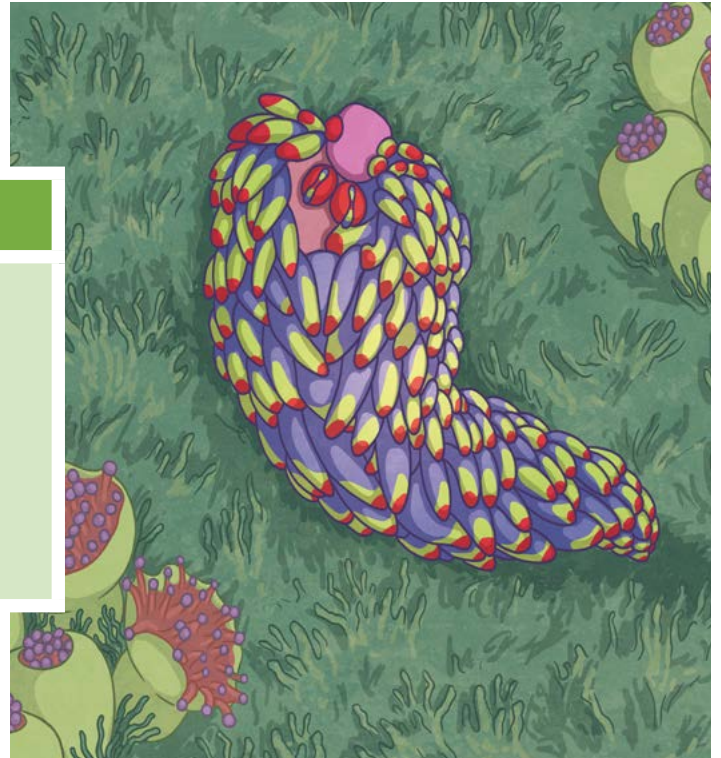


Illustration: *Babakina anadoni*.

This is not the only exciting sighting in Scilly waters. According to Lucy McRobert from the Isles of Scilly Wildlife Trust, the waters surrounding the Isles of Scilly are home to lots of wonderful sea life. She said: "from rare and beautiful nudibranchs to violet sea snails to great whales like humpbacks and fins, every time we dive beneath the surface we learn and see something new!"

Who knows what they will 'sea' next?

Glossary

marine	The sea and the living creatures within it.
mollusc	A soft-bodied creature that usually has a shell.
uninhabited	Not lived in or on.
threatened	At risk.

Questions

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

2. Look at the sentence beginning: **A rare sea slug has been spotted...** Find and copy a word which is similar in meaning to 'rare'.

3. 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.

4. Find **one** piece of evidence from the article which gives you the impression that sea slugs are not easy to find.

5. Why has the author chosen to include the following sentence: **Who knows what they will 'sea' next?**

6. 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.		