

Metridium (common sea Anemone)

Classification

Kingdom : Animalia

Phylum : Cnidaria

Class : Hexacorallia

Order : Actiniaria

Family : Metridiidae

Genus : Metridium



For further details, [link](#)

Characteristics :

- Metridium, or the common plumose sea anemone, are sessile marine invertebrates characterized by a slender, smooth column, and numerous thread-like tentacles that give them a fluffy appearance.
- They attach to solid surfaces like rocks and piers, particularly where there is strong water movement, and are found in the tidal zone of oceans worldwide. These predaceous animals feed on small planktons and larvae, capturing prey with stinging cells called nematocysts.
- **Body Structure:** Metridium has a cylindrical body divided into a pedal disc (for attachment), a column, and a distinct oral disc at the top.
- **Tentacles:** The column is topped with numerous, fine, often threadlike tentacles.
- **Stinging Cells:** Tentacles contain nematocysts, specialized stinging cells that paralyze prey before it is moved to the mouth.
- **Size:** Size varies significantly, with some specimens reaching up to a meter or more in height.
- **Color:** Typically white, but can also be orange, pink, buff, or bi-colored.
- **Nervous System:** Metridium has a diffuse nervous system with fast-conducting nerve fibres that coordinate movements.

Habit and Habitat

- **Habitat:** They are sessile, or sedentary, marine animals, typically found in temperate and colder waters of the northern Atlantic and Pacific oceans.
- **Substrate:** They attach to solid substrates such as rocks, piers, jetties, and even floating objects.
- **Water Movement:** Often found in areas with strong water movement and can tolerate brackish water.

Important Facts

- **Predation:** Metridium is a predator that feeds on small planktonic organisms and other small invertebrates.
- **Reproduction:** Sexes are separate, and they can reproduce sexually, as well as asexually through basal lacerations.
- **Ecosystem Role:** They provide habitat for other organisms, such as commercially important groundfish.
- **Pollution Sensitivity:** Some species, like *Metridium farcimen*, are sensitive to industrial pollution, sewage, and anoxic conditions.
- **Long Lifespan:** Certain species can live for many decades, with *Metridium Canum* known to live over 50 years.