## **MarBEF Species Gallery**

## A growing resource of images of European marine species

## By Ward Appeltans and Bart Vanhoorne

The MarBEF species gallery contains at the moment 1,717 images (http://www.marbef.org/speciesgallery). These images cover some 800 species, all of which are currently listed in the European Register of Marine Species (ERMS). Our database allows images to be shared between several albums; therefore, any individual album can have a variety of sources. In this way, the same image or album can also be picked up and used by ERMS to illustrate their species information or other regional or global species databases, which are hosted at the Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ).

The largest marine groups in our image database to date are Pisces, Mollusca and Crustacea, and at the moment there is a strong focus on uploading Atlantic species to the gallery and we are increasing our pictures of common species in European waters each day, which is wonderful.

However, we still have a number of common species for which we have very few or no images at all, not to mention marine groups that people would less frequently come across. It is one of our ambitions within the species gallery in MarBEF to source at least one quality picture for each European species. There is a lot of scientific and educational value in pictures. So, if you like this project and have pictures you took yourself on board a vessel or in the lab, or the next time you venture to the sea with your camera and come home with lovely pictures of species found on the beach, we would be very happy if you would share We hope this short note will inspire the MarBEF network and beyond to help us achieve our goal. For each picture used, we include copyright and the author/photographer alongside the picture. However, we also encourage the photographer to include additional details (where available), e.g. who identified the species, the location and date of capture and, for museum specimens, details on the preservation method applied.

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MarBEF Data Management Office i/o Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ) Email: info@marbef.org

these pictures. You can simply upload your
species pictures via the website under 'add
picture' – but contact $info@marbef.org$ if you
would like further information or wish to
contribute your pictures directly.

Mollusca 214 Crustacea 104 Polychaeta 59 Echinodermata 49 Porifera 33 28 Anthozoa 19 Hydrozoa Rhodophyta 13 Tunicata 11 Bryozoa 10 Phaeophyta 10 Mammalia 7 Scyphozoa 6 Aves 6 Dinomastigota 5

Table 1. Overview of the number of

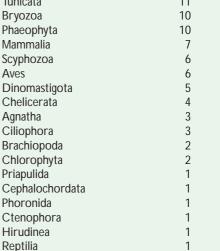
species covered in the MarBEF Species

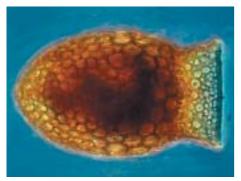
Number

240

Group

Pisces





Codonella elongata: John Dolan



Marthasterias glacialis (Linnaeus, 1758): Freddy Vermeulen



Limanda limanda (Linnaeus, 1758): Hans Hillewaert



Ceratium ranipes (Cleve, 1900): John Dolan



Liocarcinus marmoreus (Leach, 1814): Hans Hillewaert



Corallium rubrum (Linnaeus, 1758): Thierry Perez