

## *Sabella spallanzanii* Mediterranean fanworm

## MARINE PEST GUIDE



Photo: ALMS

### Identifying features

- A single spiral fan (radiole) with a greatly reduced semicircular fan.
- Tube-dwelling - tube is tough and flexible.
- Tube often muddy in appearance, with other organisms growing on surface.
- Up to 40 cm tall.
- Fans protrude 1 to 6.5 cm from tube when feeding.
- Fans white, banded brown/orange; central stem orange.



Photo: CSIRO Marine Research

### Where are they found?

- Typically found in estuaries or sheltered sites.
- Found at depths of 1 to 30 metres.
- Bottom of tube always anchored to a hard surface.

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[www.biosecurity.govt.nz](http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz)  
0800 80 99 66



## *Sabella spallanzanii* Mediterranean fanworm

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- Sabellid fanworm.
- Single spiral fan and a small semicircular fan.
- Soft, flexible tube.

Photo: CSIRO Marine Research

### If you think you have seen this fanworm

- Note the location of where it is growing, and if possible collect samples and freeze in a plastic bag.
- Contact Biosecurity New Zealand on 0800 80 99 66.

### What looks similar to it?

There are many New Zealand native fanworms that look similar. These fanworms are of two main types, sabellid and serpulid, and are poorly known.

**BUT** the Mediterranean fanworm is larger than all native fanworms, and there are other features that help to distinguish it from native fanworms underwater.

### A worm with two spiral fans is NOT *Sabella spallanzanii*



NZ NATIVE

Photos: Malcolm Francis

e.g. *Protula* sp.

- Serpulid and sabellid fanworms can have two spiral fans.

### A worm with two semicircular fans is NOT *Sabella spallanzanii*



NZ NATIVE

e.g. this NZ fanworm, species unknown.

- Serpulid and sabellid fanworms can have two semicircular fans.

### A worm with a hard tube is NOT *Sabella spallanzanii*



NZ NATIVE

e.g. *Protula* sp.

- Only serpulid fanworms have hard tubes.

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