

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

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.

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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Table 1. Overview of the number of species covered in the MarBEF Species Gallery.

Group	Number
Pisces	240
Mollusca	214
Crustacea	104
Polychaeta	59
Echinodermata	49
Porifera	33
Anthozoa	28
Hydrozoa	19
Rhodophyta	13
Tunicata	11
Bryozoa	10
Phaeophyta	10
Mammalia	7
Scyphozoa	6
Aves	6
Dinomastigota	5
Chelicerata	4
Agnatha	3
Ciliophora	3
Brachiopoda	2
Chlorophyta	2
Priapulida	1
Cephalochordata	1
Phoronida	1
Ctenophora	1
Hirudinea	1
Reptilia	1



Codonella elongata: John Dolan



Limanda limanda (Linnaeus, 1758): Hans Hillewaert



Liocarcinus marmoreus (Leach, 1814): Hans Hillewaert



Marthasterias glacialis (Linnaeus, 1758): Freddy Vermeulen



Ceratium ranipes (Cleve, 1900): John Dolan



Corallium rubrum (Linnaeus, 1758): Thierry Perez