

Bloody Henry (*Henricia spp*)

Asteroidea (Echinodermata:Spliniulosida)



Five armed starfish, generally purple or violet in colour but may occur in a variety of other colours from brown to yellow. Distinguished from pale forms of the common starfish due to the lack of conspicuous white spines on the upper surface. Generally occurs in moderately to strongly exposed rocks and on feeds extensively on mussels, sponges and hydroids.



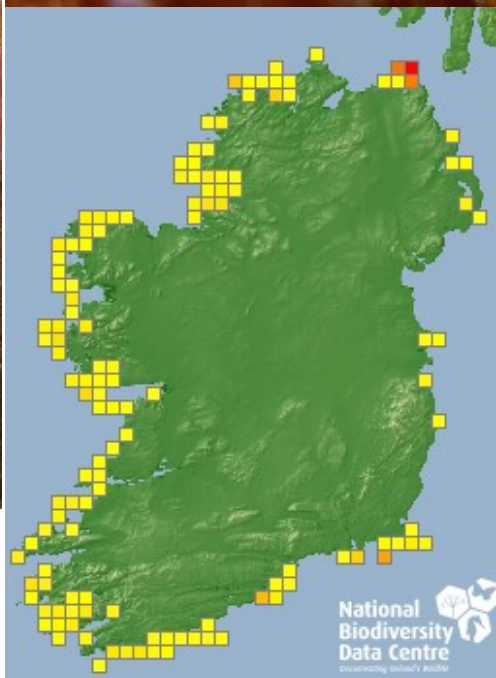
At what dive sites will I find it?

Occurs on all Irish coasts where suitable habitat occurs. Large number of records from St. John's Point, Co Donegal where it is unusually not to see one on a dive.

Echinodermata->Asteroidea->Spliniulosida->Echinasteridae

IUCN Red List Categorisation: Not Assessed

Two species of *Henricia* occur in Irish waters, with *Henricia oculata* thought to have a more southern distribution than *Henricia sanguinolenta*. Both species are impossible to distinguish in the field, so records of this species should be made as *Henricia* spp. A study from Canada found a correlation between urchin density and the abundance of *Henricia sanguinolenta*¹.



1. Scheibling, R.E. & Lauzon-Gray, J.S. (2007) Feeding aggregations of sea stars (*Asterias* spp. and *Henricia sanguinolenta*) associated with sea urchin (*Strongylocentrotus droebachiensis*) grazing fronts in Nova Scotia. *Marine Biology*, 151:3, pg1175-1183.

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