

Cotton Spinner (*Holothuria forskali*)

Echinodermata->Holothuridea->Holothuriida



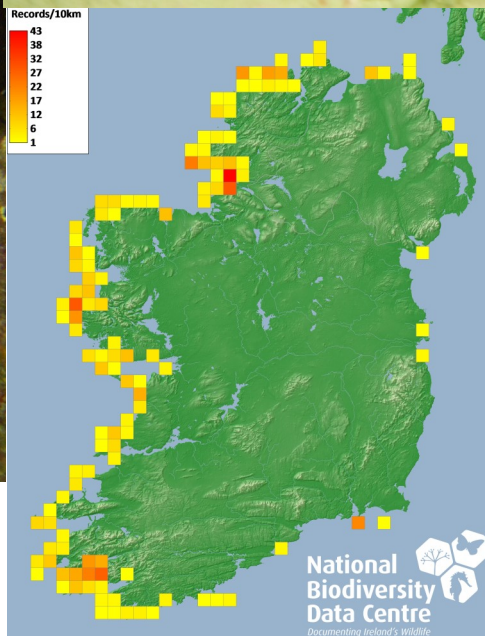
Extremely distinctive species due to its black colour and large numbers of protruding papillae this species is unlikely to be confused with any other species seen in Irish waters.

IUCN Red List Categorisation: Least Concern

Common throughout the north east Atlantic this species is found on the west coast of Ireland with scattered records from the east. Present at all depths this species can be locally abundant at rocky sites. The Cuvierian tubes that the species discharges when disturbed (the white threads) are designed to immobilize organisms that are seeking to predate on this species. However these tubes can take up to 5 weeks to regenerate so it is best not to deliberately disturb this species.



This species is rarely recorded on the east coast but is widely distributed on the west coast and can be extremely locally abundant.



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