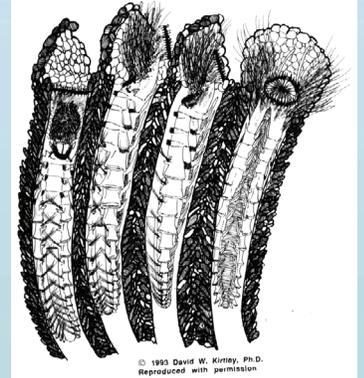
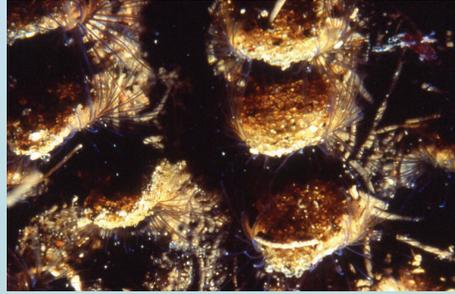


Sabellariid Worm Reef

Phragmatopoma caudata



Size: Marine worms of the family Sabellariidae can get up to 2 inches long

Range and Habitat: Intertidal areas from Cape Canaveral to Biscayne Bay

Diet: They filter feed microplankton from the water column.

Life History: How they build their colony – as larvae they have eyespots on both ends and use them to determine a good attachment site (a hard durable surface – the rock along our shores, pilings, jetties) – they feel the surface with tentacles and taste the site with special sensory organs around their mouths – first a transparent mucous cylinder forms just enough to cover the 2mm tiny creature – the worm collects minerals, diatom frustules, sponge spicules, and other small fragments and implants them in the mucous – it is only during this time that if it is broken lose with enough of the tube intact that it can possibly repair and get a second start – then as they build their tube they use the sand in the splash zone of the beach.

Predators: Their primary predators are crustaceans—crabs

Threats to species: One of the most important threats is beach renourishment that does not take into consideration their need for hard substrate to settle on and the subsequent burying of existing substrate

Status: Did you know?

- They have a “hood” that they can close when the reef is exposed at low tide – a coral reef cannot be exposed, no protection
- Worldwide Sabellariids are found from Pt.Barrow, Alaska to the Falkland Islands off the southern coast of South America
- Nelson (1989) said that there were over 325 invertebrate species associated with them and the seasonal abundance of isopod and amphipod species can be as high

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