

SCUBA News

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Welcome to the 215th issue SCUBA News. I hope you find it useful. Any questions or comments email news@scubatravel.co.uk.

You can download a pdf version of SCUBA News [here](#).

Contents:

[What's new at SCUBA Travel?](#)

[Liveaboard Deals](#)

[Your Letters](#)

[Creature of the Month: Plumose Anemone](#)

[Diving news from around the World](#)



What's New at SCUBA Travel?

Madagascar's Diving Season Starts Now



Madagascar, the world's fourth largest island, hosts one of the world's longest continuous coral reefs. The country is famous for her unique land animals, but her seas are also full of life not found anywhere else.

[Learn More...](#)

Where to Dive in Antigua?



The best diving in Antigua is in the south of the island, around English Harbour. The north is shallow and quite sandy, but calm and good for beginners.

[Read More...](#)

Head for the Med - Diving Italy



See which Italian dive centres have been given the five fish rating.



Find Out...

Liveboard Deals

Save 40% on St Johns liveboard in the Red Sea

Dive Egypt's most southerly spots



For beautiful deep walls and oceanic white tip sharks.

Learn More...

Letters

I wonder if anyone else feels this way about dive travel. How many have booked dive travel through a shop? You are basically paying for the dive shop person to go on a trip and take their pics . I do not see any added value they offer. Would love to hear others views.

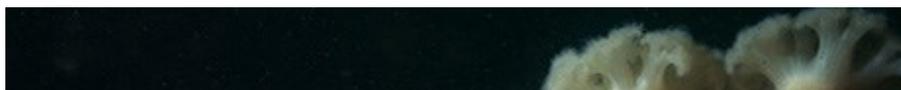
Sean S, via Twitter

<https://twitter.com/scubaseansa/status/985890309170126849>

Creature of the Month: Plumose Anemone, *Metridium senile*

Attack of the killer clones: Plumose anemones strike their neighbours

You often see small forests of Plumose anemones when diving in temperate waters. The is due to their ability to clone themselves.





Genetically different patches of clones are often separated by narrow paths free of anemones. Along the edges of these corridors, the anemones often possess two types of tentacle. One type for catching food and one much smaller type which can expand tremendously. They use these expanding tentacles to reach over and attack non-identical anemones across the border. The tip of the tentacle doesn't hurt anemones the same as itself, it only discharges its stinging nematocysts upon contact with a genetically different individual. After stinging the tentacle breaks, leaving about 1 cm of the tip attached to the victim. The tissue around the sting dies as, occasionally, does the victim.



Plumose anemones comprise a tall, smooth column topped with a crown of feathery tentacles. When they contact they look like swirly blobs.

Individuals are usually white or orange, although they are sometimes dark green, grey or brown in colour. They grow up to 30 cm tall and 15 cm across at the base. They like areas with currents so tend to live on prominent pieces of wrecks or on rocky pinnacles - in other words, in good diving areas





With fine, delicate tentacles they are unsuited to capturing large animals like fish. Instead they specialise in smaller prey such as small planktonic crustaceans. The anemone's columnar body is narrower just below the tentacles. A current will bend the stalk at this point and expose the tentacles broadside to the flow in the best position for feeding on suspended matter.



The Plumose anemone occurs from the Bay of Biscay (North of Spain) to [Scandinavia](#) in the northeast Atlantic, and on the west and east coasts of North America. It is unknown from the western basin of the Mediterranean but has been seen in the Adriatic, where it is believed to have been introduced. It has also been seen in Table Bay Harbour in South Africa where it was probably introduced from Europe.





Plumose anemone with jellyfish

The common name comes from *pluma* - feather. The Latin name, which it was given by Linnaeus, is *Metridium senile* which means Fruitful old - probably a reference to its cloning ability. There is some confusion as to whether this has been replaced by the name *M. dianthus*, but *M. senile* is still the accepted name according to [ITIS](#) - the Integrated Taxonomic Information System. *M dianthus* is listed as a different species but with "data quality indicators unverified".

Animalia (Kingdom) > Cnidaria (Phylum) > Anthozoa (Class) > Hexacorallia (Subclass) > Actiniaria (Order) > Enthemonae (Suborder) > Metridioidea (Superfamily) > Metridiidae (Family) > Metridium (Genus) > *Metridium senile* (Species)

Photos [copyright Tim Nicholson](#), taken off the [Isle of Man](#)

[Read the full story here](#). Previous creatures of the month are in our [Marine Life section](#).

Diving News From Around the World

Our round up of the best underwater news stories of the past month. For breaking news see our [Twitter page](#) or [RSS feed](#)



[5 Ways to overcome dive anxiety](#)

Divers, and especially new ones, can experience dive anxiety at times. Dive anxiety though can be managed and overcome in time. Here are five techniques to make it a thing of the past.



[Cost of Sipadan diving permit to rise by 250 Percent](#)

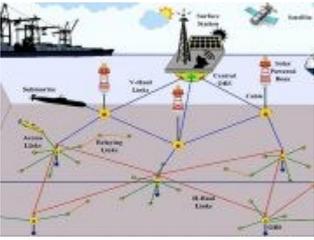
Everyone wishing to dive the conservation area of Sipadan in Malaysia must obtain a permit: only 120 permits are issued each day and from August the cost is rising.



[Where to dive in April & May?](#)



From Belize to the Red Sea - where to go and what you might see there in April and May.



Underwater sensing with light and sound

Oceanic sensor networks that collect and transmit real-time data could transform our understanding of marine ecology and improve pollution and disaster management.



Boracay Island to be closed to tourists - Philippines

Boracay Island in the Philippines will be closed to tourists from 26 April 2018 for 6 months for environmental rehabilitation



Drop in plastic bags littering British seas linked to introduction of 5p charge

Scientists find an estimated 30% drop in plastic bags on the seabed in the same timeframe as charges were introduced in European countries



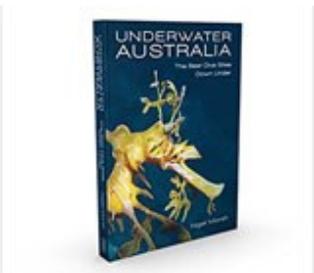
Bowhead whales: jazz artists of the deep whose calls rival birdsong

Bowheads serenade each other off Greenland with a vast repertoire of improvised jazz-like song, study says



49,188 Divers collect 307,064 kg debris from ocean

Thousands of divers have participated in Dive Against Debris in more than 50 countries around the world, reporting over 900,000 pieces of rubbish



Underwater Australia: The Best Dive Sites Down Under

It's difficult to find an up-to-date book covering the diving all around Australia - this new publication remedies that.

Photo credits: Tim Nicholson, Jill Studholme

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