

# Occurrence of the sea slug, *Armina juliana* (Ardila & Diaz, 2002) off Chennai coast

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The sea slug, *Armina juliana* was recorded for the first time in the landings at Kasimedu Fishing Harbour on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2011. They were caught in trawl net operated off north Chennai at a depth of around 100 -150 m. *A. juliana* is a large, colourful nudibranch. This species has been recorded off the northern Caribbean coast of Colombia at depths of 310 and 460 m in soft bottom sediments.

## Morphometric characteristics

Live animals are bright red in color with contrasting white longitudinal notal ridges; the anterior margin of the oral veil and the apical portion of the rhinophores are also white (Fig. 1). The body is elongated, flattened, narrowing posteriorly. The notum bears 34 longitudinal dorsal ridges, the oral veil is distinct and the club-shaped



Fig. 1. Dorsal view of the sea slug, *Armina juliana* collected from Kasimedu Fishing Harbour

rhinophores, bear about 10 vertical lamellae. A caruncle is also distinguishable in front of the rhinophores. The genital opening is located on the right side, anterior to the branchial lamellae. There are approximately 20 branchial lamellae on each side of the body, and 15 hyponotal lamellae. A deep medial groove is present along the sole of the foot (Fig. 2) and the posterior white pedal gland is prominent.



Fig. 2. Ventral view of the sea slug, *Armina Juliana* collected from Kasimedu Fishing Harbour