



# MarLIN

## Marine Information Network

Information on the species and habitats around the coasts and sea of the British Isles

## North Atlantic octopus (*Bathypolypus arcticus*)

MarLIN – Marine Life Information Network  
Marine Evidence-based Sensitivity Assessment (MarESA) Review

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2006-11-06

A report from:

The Marine Life Information Network, Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom.

**Please note.** This MarESA report is a dated version of the online review. Please refer to the website for the most up-to-date version [<https://www.marlin.ac.uk/species/detail/1118>]. All terms and the MarESA methodology are outlined on the website (<https://www.marlin.ac.uk>)

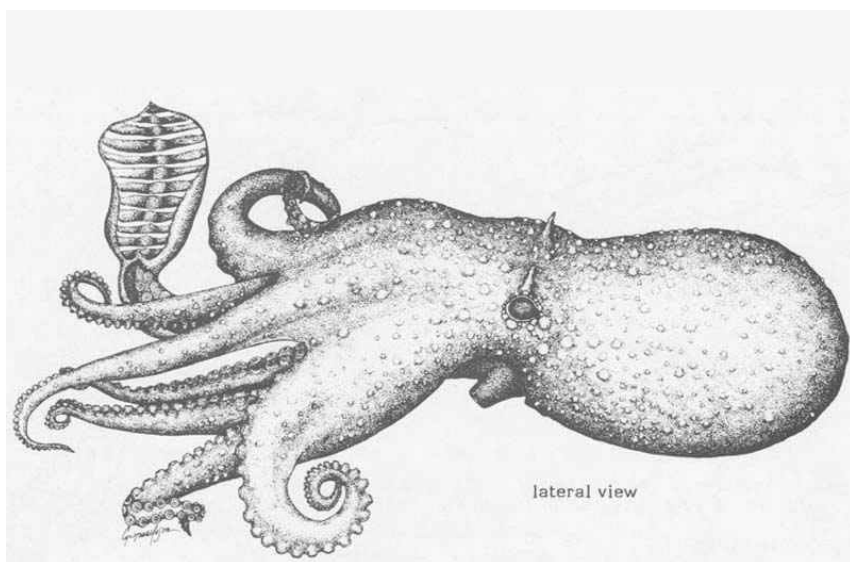
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Line drawing of *Bathypolypus arcticus*.  
 Photographer:  
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See online review for  
 distribution map

Distribution data supplied by the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS). To interrogate UK data visit the NBN Atlas.

Researched by	Emily Wilson	Refereed by	Admin
Authority	(Prosch, 1849)		
Other common names	-	Synonyms	-

## Summary

### Description

*Bathypolypus arcticus* is a squat, short-armed octopus between 6-10 cm in length, that lacks an ink sac.

### Recorded distribution in Britain and Ireland

All British and Irish coasts.

### Global distribution

North Atlantic Ocean: Straits of Florida northward to Greenland, Iceland, Spitzbergen and southward to Great Britain and North Sea.

### Habitat

Most frequently found on sandy and muddy bottoms but they must move to rocky areas to spawn.

### Depth range

14-1000m

### Identifying features

- Mantle globular, nearly as wide as long.
- Surface of mantle, head, arms and web covered in warts, especially around the eyes.
- Arms short, irregular order.
- Suckers small and biserial.

### Additional information

No text entered

### Listed by

### Further information sources

Search on:

    NBN WoRMS

## Bibliography

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Miramand, P. & Bentley, D., 1992. Concentration and distribution of heavy metals in tissues of two cephalopods, *Eledone cirrhosa* and *Sepia officinalis*, from the French coast of the English Channel. *Marine Biology*, **114**, 407-414.

Roper, C.F.E., Sweeney, M.J. & Nauen, C.E., 1984. FAO species catalogue. Vol. 3. Cephalopods of the world. An annotated and illustrated catalogue of species of interest to fisheries. *FAO Fisheries Synopsis*, **125**, 3, 277.

Available: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/009/ac479e/ac479e00.htm>

## Datasets

NBN (National Biodiversity Network) Atlas. Available from: <https://www.nbnatlas.org>.

OBIS (Ocean Biogeographic Information System), 2019. Global map of species distribution using gridded data. Available from: Ocean Biogeographic Information System. [www.iobis.org](http://www.iobis.org). Accessed: 2019-03-12