



MarLIN

Marine Information Network

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

Arctic cowrie (*Trivia arctica*)

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

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2008-04-17

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/1800>]. All terms and the MarESA methodology are outlined on the website (<https://www.marlin.ac.uk>)

This review can be cited as:

MacDougall, C.A. 2008. *Trivia arctica* Arctic cowrie. In Tyler-Walters H. and Hiscock K. (eds) *Marine Life Information Network: Biology and Sensitivity Key Information Reviews*, [on-line]. Plymouth: Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom. DOI <https://dx.doi.org/10.17031/marlin.sp.1800.1>



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The Arctic cowrie *Trivia arctica*.
 Photographer: Sue Scott
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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	Catherine MacDougall	Refereed by	Admin
Authority	(Pulteney, 1799)		
Other common names	-	Synonyms	-

Summary

🔍 Description

Trivia arctica has a small thickly calcified, glossy, egg shaped shell with a length of around 10 mm and width of 8 mm. The upper surface of the shell is reddish-brown while the lower surface is flattened and white. There are no spots on the shell, although the fleshy lobes of the mantle may bear spots. The shell aperture is long and narrow. Closely spaced, thickened ridges run around the width of the shell. When the animal is active the fleshy lobes of the mantle wrap around the shell so that it is almost totally covered. The mantle and the rest of the animal is pale in colour.

📍 Recorded distribution in Britain and Ireland

The arctic cowrie is found mainly on the north and west coasts of Britain and around Ireland. It is most common where its ascidian prey occurs.

📍 Global distribution

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🏠 Habitat

Found mainly in the sublittoral, on rocky coastlines and occasionally on the lower shore.

↓ Depth range

Q Identifying features

- Egg shaped shell with flattened apertural surface.
- Shell length around 10 mm, width around 8 mm.
- Long narrow aperture present.
- Upper surface of shell is reddish-brown while the underside is white.
- Thickened ridges running around the width of the shell.
- There are no markings on the shell.
- The animal itself is pale in colour.

Additional information

The shell of *Trivia arctica* may be confused with that of *Trivia monacha*, which is slightly larger and has three dark spots down the long axis of the shell. *Trivia arctica* feeds on ascidians such as *Botryllus schlosseri*.

✓ Listed by

Further information sources

Search on:



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