

BANDED MUREX

Scientific Name:
Hexaplex trunculus

Key Information

The banded murex is a sea snail with a spiky, thick shell marked by dark spiral bands—giving it a rugged, armored look. It's usually yellowish-brown and grows up to 6–10 cm in length.

Curoisities

In ancient times, this snail was used to make royal purple dye, known as Tyrian purple. It took thousands of snails to make just a small amount—so the color was only worn by kings and emperors!



Banded murex
Photo by Meet the Sea

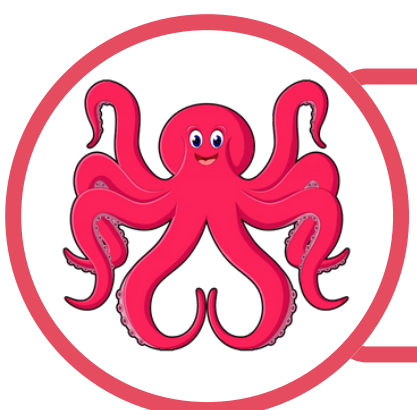


Banded murex
Photo by Meet the Sea

Habitat & Food

Banded murexes live in shallow, coastal waters, often in sandy or rocky seabeds and among seagrass beds. They like hiding under rocks or burying slightly in the sand, close to the shoreline.

The banded murex is a carnivore and scavenger. It feeds on other mollusks (like bivalves), dead animals and sometimes slow-moving sea creatures. It uses a special tongue-like organ (a radula) and acid to drill into shells and reach the soft meat inside.



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