

Macrobenthos of the North Sea -**Echinodermata** M.J. de Kluijver & S.S. Ingalsuo[Introduction](#) | [Species](#) | [Groups](#) | [Key](#) | [Glossary](#) | [Literature](#) | [Index](#)***Heliometra glacialis***

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(Owen, 1833)

Description

Heliometra glacialis is a large and stout species, reaching an arm length of 200 mm or even more. Colour in life yellowish.

Body **centro-dorsal** hemispherical, with cirrus-sockets irregularly arranged. **Cirri** rather stout and numerous, about 100 or more, covering nearly the whole of the **centro-dorsal**; they have mostly ca. 40-60 joints. Brachials usually smooth. **Proximal** segments somewhat longer than wide, the distal short, with more or less prominent **dorsal** spine. Oral pinnules greatly elongated and flagellate, composed of very numerous short and wide joints; the distal part of these pinnules more or less **serrate**. Pinnule 2 of about the same length as pinnule 1. The genital pinnules with fairly large calcareous plates in the side walls.

Development

The eggs are probably free. The pentacrinoids are only rarely found and only a few stages are known. The stalk joints are rather stout.

Habitat

This is a free-moving species of sheltered habitats after the pentacrinoid has detached itself from its stalk.

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