

SEA CUCUMBER

- Sea Cucumbers are like the millipedes of the sea. They live in different habitats in shallow seas and in deep oceans.
- They move slowly on the sand, eating sand grains, and feed on organic matter attached to grains of sand. They constantly excrete the sand grains, keeping the marine waters healthy and helping with nutrient recycling .
- Sea Cucumbers belong to a group that can regrow some of their internal organs and so we also like to think of them as soft squishy superheroes of the sea!

DESCRIPTION

Scientific Name: *Holothuria scabra*

Habitat: Marine

Distribution: Wide distribution across the Indo-Pacific region

Diet: Sediments, bacteria, diatoms, and other small organisms



IMPORTANCE

- Pearl fish depend on sea cucumbers for shelter and reproduction
- They are the nutrient recyclers of the ocean

FUN FACT

Sea cucumbers breathe through their anus. When threatened, they eject their organs to scare predators

THREATS

Overexploitation for consumption and pharmaceutical industry, habitat loss, degradation, climate change, and diseases.

IUCN

Endangered

