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Antipella cristata (Delle Chiaje, 1841) - Italy, Ionian Sea: Santa Maria La Scala

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***Antiopella cristata* (Delle Chiaje, 1841) (Nudibranchia Janolidae).** This nudibranch is distributed in the Mediterranean Sea and along the European Atlantic coasts as far as Norway. *Antiopella cristata* may reach 75-80 mm in length and presents an oval shape body, slightly flattened dorso-ventrally. The body may be transparent white or orange. Rhinophores are united at the base and between them there is a crest, called caruncle. Cerata are numerous, located latero-dorsally and form lateral series on either side united around the frontal margin in front of the rhinophores. They are finger-like, swollen and smooth. Through the transparent cerata, tributaries of the digestive gland can be observed. The tip of the cerata is light blue transparent and white spotted. On the notum, usually there are two white parallel lines that run throughout the body, from the head to the tail. The egg masses have a wavy pearl ribbon shape and may be pink-colored or white-colored. *Antiopella cristata* feeds on erect bryozoans as *Bugulina turbinata* (Alder, 1857), *Bugula* spp., *Bicellariella ciliata* (Linnaeus, 1758), *Alcyonidium* spp., *Bugularia* spp. and *Cellaria* spp. This species lives in shallow and in sheltered areas, on rocky bottoms where bryozoans, which it feeds on, live. In the central-eastern coasts of Sicily, *A. cristata* specimens are not very common and have been found from 11 to 36 m of depth. The majority of *A. cristata*'s specimens were observed on the following substrates: red algae with detritus, a mix of red and brown algae, photophilous assemblages, red algae, *Bugula* spp. and *Crambe crambe* (Schmidt, 1862). The egg masses were laid on *Bugula* spp., on *Dictyota* spp., on the central branch of *Eudendrium* sp. covered by bryozoan and on *Carpodesmia zosteroides* (Turner) Greville. *Antiopella cristata* seems to be an annual species that starts to appear in autumn, reaching the peak of its presence in winter and spring and tend to disappear at the beginning of summer.