

SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET

Helminthora divaricata

English name: –	Scientific name: <i>Helminthora divaricata</i>	
Taxonomical group: Class: Florideophyceae Order: Nemaliales Family: Liagoraceae	Species authority: (C.Agardh) J.Agardh 1852	
Subspecies, Variations, Synonyms: <i>Helminthora stackhousei</i> (Clemente) Cremades & Pérez-Cirera, 1990, <i>Dudresnaya divaricata</i> (C.Agardh) J.Agardh, 1852, <i>Achrochaetium polyidis</i> (Rosenvinge) Børgesen, 1915	Generation length: probably 1	
Past and current threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): Unknown (U)	Future threats (Habitats Directive article 17 codes): Unknown (U)	
IUCN Criteria: –	HELCOM Red List Category:	DD Data Deficient
Global / European IUCN Red List Category NE/NE	Habitats Directive: –	
Protection and Red List status in HELCOM countries: <u>Denmark</u> –/–, <u>Estonia</u> –/–, <u>Finland</u> –/–, <u>Germany</u> –/–, <u>Latvia</u> –/–, <u>Lithuania</u> –/–, <u>Poland</u> –/–, <u>Russia</u> –/–, <u>Sweden</u> –/DD		

Distribution and status in the Baltic Sea region

Helminthora divaricata is a marine species of red algae that is apparently rare in the HELCOM region. Its only records are from the northern Kattegat. There are two rather recent records from the 1990s and two old ones from the year 1894. In Sweden it has been found only from the Skagerrak and in Norway from the west coast.



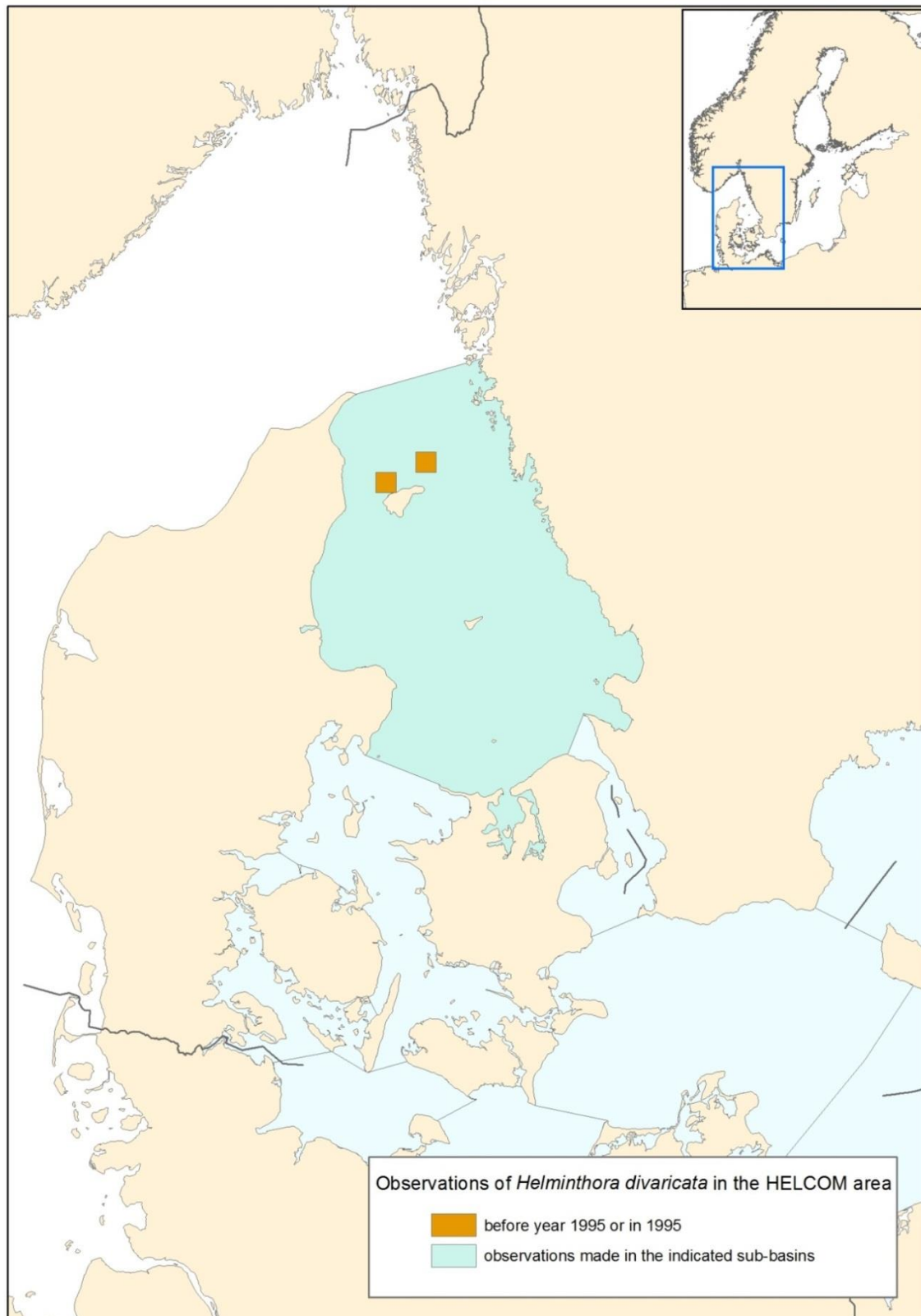
Helminthora divaricata on *Polyides rotundus*. Finavarra, Co Clare, Ireland; AlgaeBase ©M.D. Guiry.

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Distribution map

The records of species compiled from the Danish national database for marine data (MADS).



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Habitat and ecology

Helminthora divaricata has heteromorphic alternation of generations. Gametophytes are attached by discoid holdfast and can grow up to 25 cm in height, whereas tetrasporophytes are microscopic. The Danish and Swedish records of the gametophyte have been epiphytes on *Polyides rotundus* and *Furcellaria lumbicalis* but it can also be found epilithically. The microscopic tetrasporophyte grows endophytically in *P. rotundus*.

Description of major threats

Threats not known.

Assessment justification

The species has been found only from two locations in the HELCOM region in the northern Kattegat. It is rare also along the North Sea and Norwegian coast and more common in the western parts of the British Isles. The Kattegat records are probably on the eastern limit of its marine distribution. The species may be easily overlooked, at least in its tetrasporophytic phase. The information available is insufficient to infer anything about population trends. The species is categorized as Data Deficient (DD).

Recommendations for actions to conserve the species

The knowledge on the distribution and ecology of the species, as well as on the trends in its population, should be improved before any specific recommendations can be given.

Common names

Denmark: –, Estonia: –, Finland: –, Germany: –, Latvia: –, Lithuania: –, Poland: –, Russia: –, Sweden: vinkelslemtråd

References

- Danish Biodiversity Information Facility, Botanical Museum, Copenhagen, the Phycology Herbarium.
 Johansson, G., Aronsson, M., Bengtsson, R., Carlson, L., Kahlert, M., Kautsky, L., Kyrkander, T., Wallentinus, I. & Willén, E. (2010). Alger – Algae. Nostocophyceae, Phaeophyceae, Rhodophyta & Chlorophyta. In Gärdenfors, U. (ed.) Rödlistade arter i Sverige 2010 – The 2010 Red List of Swedish Species. ArtDatabanken, SLU, Uppsala. P. 223–229. Red List categories available also at <http://www.artfakta.se/GetSpecies.aspx?SearchType=Advanced>
- MADS, The Danish national database for marine data. NERI: University of Aarhus; National Environmental Research Institute. Downloaded in August–September 2010.
- Wallentinus, I. (2012). *Helminthora divaricata* vinkelslemtråd. Artfaktablad. Artdatabanken – Swedish Species Information Centre. Available at www.artfakta.se/artfaktablad/Helminthora_divaricata_232533.pdf