Ammothea hilgendorfi **System:** Marine

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Animalia	Arthropoda	Pycnogonida	Pantopoda	Ammotheidae

Common name Pacific brown-banded sea-spider (English), Zebrazeespin (Dutch)

Synonym
Ammothea marginatum ,(Cole, 1904)
Lecythorhynchus marginatus ,Cole, 1904
Lecythorhynchus hilgendorfi ,(Böhm, 1879)
Corniger hilgendorfi ,Böhm, 1879
Ammothea ovatus ,Hilton, 1942

Similar species

Summary Native to the North Pacific Ocean (e.g., Japan and west America), it has been recorded in Europe since late 70's (Venetian lagoon, Southampton Water) and since 2010 in the North Sea. They likely settled via international shipping by gripping on boat hulls. Their distribution range from 30m depth to the intertidal zone. Apart from a few records in soil samples, information about this species and its impact on the environment are scarce.

view this species on IUCN Red List

Species Description
The adult trunk length is ~2mm and the adult trunk width is ~1.5mm. This pycnogonid has 9-articled palps associated with reduced and rounded chelifores. The trunk is completely segmented, with well-distinct lateral processes, and ridges at the end of the first three segments (Faasse, 2013). The yellowish body features black-brownish spots over the legs.

Notes
Ammothea hilgendorfi distinguishes from Nymphon brevirostre with its wider body and legs, as well as a brown-banded yellowish body opposed to an unicolorous brown-reddish body.

Lifecycle Stages
Males bear the eggs on ovigerous legs until they hatch. The larva is protonymphon developmental type 1 according to Brenneis et al. (2017). It develops as endoparasite of gastrovascular cavities of hydroids (Russel & Hedgpeth, 1990).

Habitat Description
It is found in marine environments from 0 to 30 meters in depth. It may live freely or be associated as ecto-parasite to hydroids. Instances of A. hilgendorfi associated with sea stars (Nakamura & Fujita, 2004) or sea cucumbers (Ohshima, 1927) were also reported.

Reproduction
Sexual. External. Polygynandrous mating (Barreto & Avise, 2008).

General Impacts
Information about the impacts on the environment and biodiversity is lacking.

Management Info
There is no management regarding this species.

Pathway

Principal source:

Compiler: Antoine Flandroit, University of Mons (UMONS)

Review:

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ALIEN RANGE

[1] BELGIUM
[1] NETHERLANDS
[1] ITALY
[3] UNITED KINGDOM

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