## Distribution and status in the Baltic Sea region

*Cryptonatica affinis* occurs all around the arctic area down to the Northern Atlantic. In the HELCOM area the species has only been found on one locality in the Sound. Outside the HELCOM area the species has been reported from the Skagerrak, and it occurs along the Norwegian coast. In Swedish investigations (Jägerskiöld 1921–1937) the species was found in close proximity to *Lophelia pertusa* reefs in northern Bohuslän. It is not known whether the species still occurs there. In later years it has only been reported from the deepest part of Öresund (Landskronadjupet). The latest finding is from 2007.
Distribution map
The records of species obtained from the species database of the Swedish Species Information Centre (Artportalen).
SPECIES INFORMATION SHEET

Cryptonatica affinis

Habitat and Ecology

*C. affinis* reaches about 20 mm in length, and has a relatively thick shell. It is a circumpolar, epibenthic (seabed surface) species. It is carnivorous and feeds mainly on bivalves. The species produces small eggs enclosed into egg capsules, in which the larvae develop. Direct larval development probably decreases the species ability to disperse and recolonize. In the HELCOM area the species has only been found on a deep soft bottom in Öresund (Landskronadjupet). This locality is characterized by a mixture of soft sediments, with strong bottom currents, and functions as a southern outpost for many marine species.

Description of major threats

It is not known whether the species is subject to any specific threats or not. However, future climate change is likely to have a negative impact on the species distribution overall.

Assessment justification

Data exists from only one locality within the HELCOM area. The information available is insufficient to determine which of the red list categories is the most likely. The species is categorized as Data Deficient (DD).

Recommendations for actions to conserve the species

Since the species is only known from one locality within the HELCOM area it is difficult to suggest any specific measures.

Common names


References

Arctic Ocean Diversity. Available at
http://www.arcodiv.org/seabottom/gastropods/Cryptonatica_affinis.html
Swedish Species Gateway. Swedish Species Information Centre and Swedish Environmental Protection Agency. Available at www.artportalen.se.
World Register of Marine Species WoRMS. Available at http://www.marinespecies.org/aphia.php?p=taxdetails&id=140525