

Oikopleura dioica

(Fol, 1872)



Phylum	Chordata
Order	Oikopleuridae
Family	Oikopleurinae

Synonyms

Appendicularia coerulescens (Gegenbaur, 1855)
Oikopleura flabellum (Traustedt, 1880)
Oikopleura malmii (Hartmann, 1878)
Vexillaria flabellum (Müller, 1846)
 (Lohmann, 1896 placed it in synonym)
Vexillaria speciosa (Eisen, 1874)

Size

Body length usually 0.5-1.0 mm, but may reach 1.3 mm
 Tail 2 – 4 mm long

Family notes

- Trunk is compact and pear shaped
- The tail is longer than the trunk, tapers distally, thick and muscular
- Spiracles are situated in the rectal region
- Endostyle is straight

Species notes

- A small appendicularian
- Trunk is ovoid
- Narrow tail, 4 times body length
- Tail has narrow tail muscle and two distinct, characteristic sub-chordal cells at 1/2 to 2/3 down one side of tail musculature (distinguishable in unstained material)

Distribution

- A semi-cosmopolitan, neritic species from warm and temperate waters.
- Atlantic, Indian and Pacific Oceans. Present in Mediterranean Sea and Red Sea.

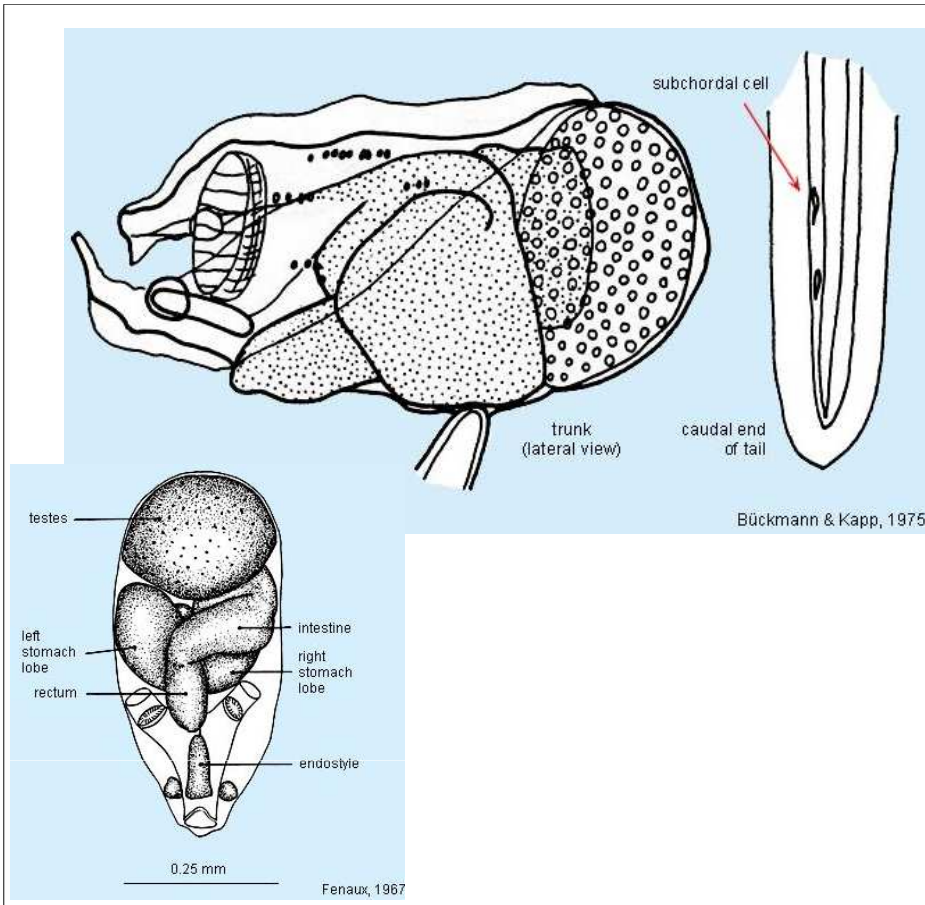
Ecology

- *O. dioica* is the most eurythermal and euryhaline species of all Appendicularia

Source

Marine Species Identification Portal (2011)

(Full reference available at <http://www.imas.utas.edu.au/zooplankton/references>)



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