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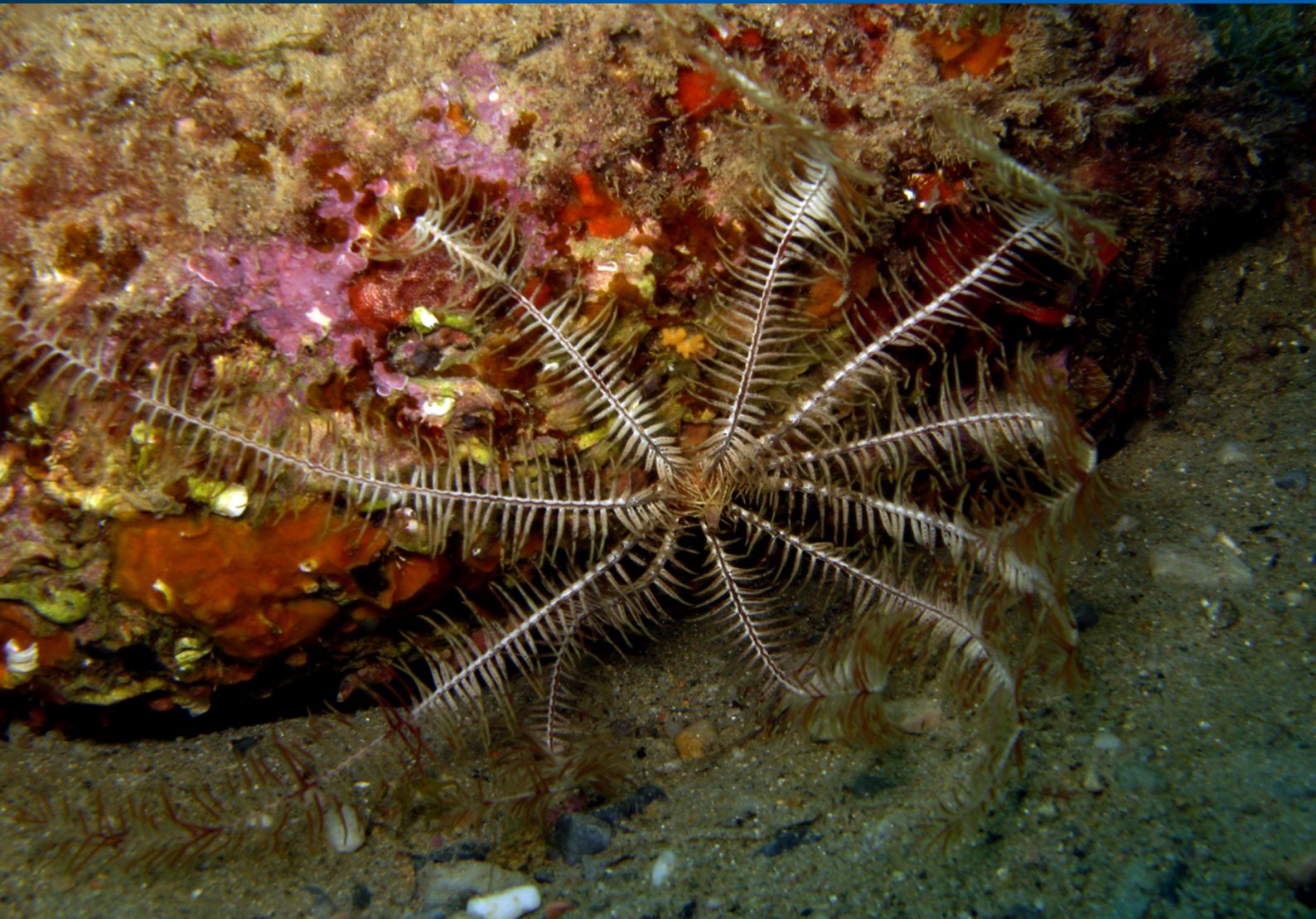
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Antedon mediterranea (Lamarck, 1816) - Italy, Savona, Capo Noli, -18 m

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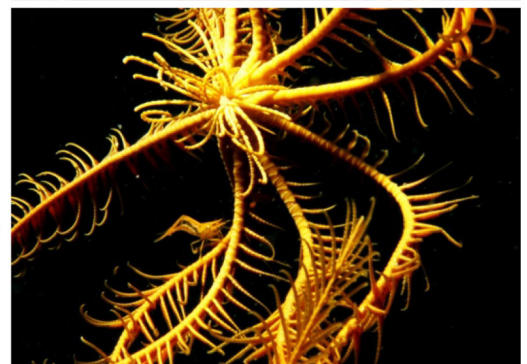
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***Antedon mediterranea* (Lamarck, 1816) (Echinodermata Crinoidea).**

This species, also known as Mediterranean feather star, has a body in the shape of a chalice with a central disc from which with five symmetrical pair of arms or 10 movable arms branch off, each provided with appendages called pinnules. The purpose of arms and pinnules is the movement and the capture of nourishment in suspension; moreover the gametes mature on some pinnules placed on the base of the arms. The mouth and anus are also present on the dorsal part of the disc. On the ventral part, however, there are mobile appendages called cirri which are prehensile structures used to cling to the substrate. In fact, *A. mediterranea* lives in the bottom of the seabed, but, as mentioned, it is able to move using its arms. They are filter feeder animals and thus feed on suspended particles (organic material and small organisms) which are trapped in their arms and conveyed to the mouth. The sexes are separate and fertilization is external. The larva is planktonic (living in suspension in water) with bilateral symmetry. *Antedon mediterranea* is widespread throughout the whole Mediterranean Sea at depths between 15 and 80 meters. It can reach a size up to 25 cm in diameter and has variable colors (red, yellow, white, orange, sometimes with streaks of different colors on the arms). It lives on rocky and sandy bottoms, on algae, rocks, gorgonians, and on *Posidonia*.



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