

Flabellina babai

Commonly known as “white flabellina”, it was first described by Schmeckel in 1972. The scientific gender name “*Flabellina*” derives from the Latin word “*Flabellum*” which means “fan”, so this name describes a fan shaped nudibranch. *Babai* is dedicated to the memory of Kikutaro Baba, a Japanese opisthobranch investigator who worked on the subject since 1930 to 1990, according to Hans G. Hansson’s BEMON index.

Flabellina babai is coloured bluish white and can grow up to 50 mm. The long lamellated rhinophores and the cerata are also coloured white with the tips bright yellow. Cerata are arranged in 7 to 12 groups along the dorsum, and each group contains from 2 to 5 appendixes growing from a common peduncle. The white oral tentacles are very long compared to the rest of the body.

Flabellina babai lives on deeper rocky bottoms than the other members of the gender: it is generally found below 20 m and among the hydrozoans which it preys on. It is considered to be not frequent.

Readers can find more information at Erwin Köhler’s site for Mediterranean Nudibranchs: **Medslugs** (http://www.medslugs.de/E/Mediterranean/Flabellina_babai.htm)

Photographs:

Fig. 1 & Fig. 2 Lluís Aguillar

Fig. 3 Albert Ollé



**miquel
pontes**

