

Himanthalia elongata

Himanthalia elongata is a brown alga in the order Fucales, also known by the common names **thongweed**, **sea thong** and **sea spaghetti**. It is found in the north east Atlantic Ocean and the North Sea.^[1]

According to the World Register of Marine Species, *Himanthalia elongata* is the only member of its genus, *Himanthalia* Lyngbye, 1819^[2] and the only member of its family, **Himanthaliaceae** (Kjellman) De Toni, 1891.^[3]

1 Description



Thongweed at Rosstown, Ireland.

H. elongata is a common brown alga of the lower shore. The thallus is at first a small flattened or saucer-shaped disc up to three centimetres wide with a short stalk. In the autumn or winter, long thongs grow from the centre of this, branching dichotomously a number of times. They grow fast and can reach up to two metres by the following summer when they become mature. They bear the **conceptacles**, the reproductive organs, and begin to decay when the gametes have been released into the water. The discs live for two or three years.^{[4][5]}

2 Distribution and habitat

H. elongata is found in the Baltic Sea, the North Sea and the north east Atlantic Ocean from Scandinavia south to Portugal.^[6] It is found on gently shelving rocky shores in the lower littoral zone and the sublittoral zone particularly on shores with moderate wave exposure. It is sometimes abundant and forms a distinct zone just below the *Fucus serratus* zone.^{[4][5]}

3 References

- [1] *Himanthalia elongata* (Linnaeus) S.F.Gray, 1821 World Register of Marine Species. Retrieved 2011-09-23.
- [2] *Himanthalia* World Register of Marine Species. Retrieved 2011-09-23.
- [3] Himanthaliaceae World Register of Marine Species. Retrieved 2011-09-23.
- [4] Thongweed - *Himanthalia elongata* Marine Life Information Network. Retrieved 2011-09-23.
- [5] *Himanthalia elongata* (Linnaeus) S.F. Gray The Seaweed Site. Retrieved 2011-09-23.
- [6] *Himanthalia elongata* (Linnaeus) S.F.Gray AlgaeBase. Retrieved 2011-09-23.

4 Text and image sources, contributors, and licenses

4.1 Text

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