CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Christmas Tree Worm

Spirobranchus giganteus

The two spiralling "trees" are all you ever see, and they are not the animal: they are the radioles, feathery crowns that do double duty as gills and as a food-collecting fan, sweeping plankton and p…

Quick facts

Classification: Invertebrate
Family: Serpulidae
Habitat: Coral reefs
Diet: Filter feeder
Conservation status: Least Concern
Lifespan: 10-20 years
Weight: Less than 1 gram
Scientific name: Spirobranchus giganteus

Did you know?

- If threatened, the Christmas Tree Worm can retract its plumes into its tube in less than a second to avoid predators.
- Because the worm irritates the coral around it, corals hosting Christmas tree worms have in some studies shown lower bleaching and less damage from c…

What I learned

© Creature Atlas · www.creatureatlas.com · Free for classroom & personal use