CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Sea Sapphire

Sapphirina metallina

Sea sapphires are copepods of the genus Sapphirina, tiny drifting crustaceans a few millimetres long that produce some of the most intense colour in the ocean and then vanish outright. Only the males…

Quick facts

Classification: Invertebrate
Family: Sapphirinidae
Habitat: Open ocean (pelagic zone)
Diet: Carnivore
Conservation status: Least Concern
Lifespan: Several days to a few weeks
Weight: Less than 1 milligram
Scientific name: Sapphirina metallina

Did you know?

- Sea Sapphires are among the few animals whose coloration is produced entirely by optical interference, not pigments.
- The layer spacing in a sea sapphire's guanine stack differs between species, so different species flash different colours. When the angle of incidenc…

What I learned

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