

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Sea Sapphire

Sapphirina metallina

The Sea Sapphire is a mesmerizing marine copepod known for its remarkable iridescent coloration, which can shimmer with vibrant flashes of blue, green, or gold. This small invertebrate is famous for ...

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.
- Male Sea Sapphires can shift from visible to nearly invisible through microscopic crystal structures in their skin; Only the males display the stunni...

What I learned
