

Marine Wildlife Search Help

In order to help you use the Marine Wildlife image search most effectively please take a little time to read this Help document which describes the basic functionality and structure of the search system.

If you are having problems locating images that you are looking for please contact us and we will do our best to help.

A. Quick search tips for the simple and advanced search options

1. Use the simple keyword search for searches on a single keyword, part of a keyword (at least 4 letters) or a keyword phrase
2. Use the advanced image super search option to search on combinations of scientific name, common name, location and keyword. The super search is a 'x + y' search, i.e. all criteria must be met.
3. Not sure of your spelling? Search on just part of the word, e.g. type in 'actino' for a search for *Actinothoe*. Only do this for single keywords not keyword phrases
4. Search on single words rather than phrases (e.g. search for 'velvet' instead of 'velvet swimming crab'). Keyword phrases have been entered into the image database, but unless the search is for that exact phrase it will not return any images.
5. Search on the singular (e.g. crab) rather than pleural (e.g. 'crabs')
6. Do not use hyphens or apostrophes in your search keywords or phrases
7. We have done our best to include what we believe to be the commonly used common names for species. If you search under a common name and do not get any results try alternative common names or just one word of the common name, or try the scientific name (genus or species or both)
8. Similarly with scientific names we have aimed to present the current scientific name and any previous names that still seem to be in usage (e.g. for the dahlia anemone *Urticina felina* we have also included it's previous scientific name of *Tealia felina*. A search for this species could be done under any of these words on their own or the common or scientific name as a phrase)
9. For a simple description of each image returned against a search move the cursor over an image and the first line of its description will pop up for a few seconds.

We have endeavoured to make sure our data entry is correct and accurate but sometimes mistakes occur. We apologise in advance for any errors in data entry - please let us know if you find any errors.

B. Simple keyword search option

If you have not registered or not logged into the site you will only be able to use the basic keyword search option. This is a simple search that is available to all users and searches on a single keyword (e.g. crab, UK, *Carcinus*, blue), parts of keywords (e.g. 'zeal' for 'Zealand') or short keyword phrases (e.g. 'mermaids purse'). If you have very specific needs and can use precise search words (such as part of a scientific name) then this should return your requirements efficiently enough. All images with that keyword or keyword phrase listed against them will be shown. The keyword will search on scientific name, common name, location, keywords and image reference number.

The simple keyword and keyword phrase search will only work if the exact word or phrase being searched for exists as a keyword or phrase in the image database, e.g. a search for 'anemone' will not pick up 'anemone'; a search for 'dog fish' will not pick up 'dogfish', but a search for 'dog' will. Similarly a search for 'velvet crab' will not find images with the keyword phrase 'velvet swimming crab'. If a search for a keyword phrase does not return any images, try searching on a single word (such as 'velvet' for the example above) or part of a word (see next paragraph)

The keyword search will search on part of a keyword. This is useful if you are not sure of the spelling of a word or how the keyword in the image database has been entered For example, if you are searching for a

species with no common name or where you don't know the common name and you are not sure of the spelling of the scientific name you can type in the first part of the scientific name, e.g. type in 'actino' for a search for *Actinothoe*. Use at least 4 letters for a part keyword search.

Some keywords are present as singular and pleural forms but others may only be present as one or the other. It is advisable to search on the singular form first as this will return results that are entered as singular and pleural forms, e.g. search for 'arm' instead of 'arms'.

The keywords entered into the database include scientific name, common name, location, image reference number and general keywords including basic taxonomic classification of species, e.g. for any anemone, there will also be the keywords 'cnidaria', 'anthozoa' and then the class and order, e.g. hexacorallia', 'actinaria'. Because slightly different terminology is sometimes used for classifying some species, try searching on different options or parts of words if a search does not return any results.

With the simple keyword search option you are restricted to viewing small images only which will be presented as a series of images with their reference number shown. To get a short description for each image move the cursor over an image and the first line of its description will pop up for a few seconds.

C. Advanced image super search option

If you have registered and logged into the site you will be able to use the advanced image super search option. This gives you greater search functionality and allows you to view larger images and to use the lightbox facility.

As with the simple search, the image results will be presented as a series of small images with their reference number shown. The advanced search allows you to view larger versions of each image together with both textual and keyword information associated with that image under the following headings:

- Common Name(s)
- Species (Scientific name)(s)
- Country (based on two letter country code system)
- General location (country and region)
- Specific location
- Description – this highlights any specific information relevant to the image
- Keywords (including the image reference number denoted by 'MW' followed by a six figure number)

The advanced search enables you to search on a combination of scientific name, common name, location and keyword. The search works by finding images that have the same combination of keyword or keyword phrases under all completed search fields. This is a 'x + y' search, i.e. all criteria entered must be met by a keyword or keyword phrase entered into the image database for each search field used. The same rules used in the simple search in terms of searching on parts of words or phrases apply to the advanced search. Remember that a mis-match of a single keyword in one field will mean that no images are returned. Try searching on a single field first and then two or more to refine your search if too many images are returned.

Scientific name:

Enter either the genus, species name or both. If you are unsure of the spelling, enter part of the spelling for either genus or species that you are sure of and search on this. E.g. Instead of 'Actinothoe sphyrodetata' you could type 'actino'.

The current scientific name and any recently used alternative names have been included where possible, e.g. images with the Dahlia anemone in them have both *Urticina felina* and *Tealia felina* listed as scientific names. However, Marine Wildlife cannot guarantee that all previous scientific names are included, so you

are advised to retry your search or try with just the genus or species name if a search does not return any images.

Common name:

Marine Wildlife has tried to include those common names that appear in easily accessible information about each species, however the common names listed for each species are not an exhaustive list as these can vary substantially.

If you type in a common name, e.g. long legged spider crab and no images are returned, try typing in just 'spider crab'. The search will only return images where the exact common name phrase has been entered as a keyword.

Location:

The location information for each image includes the country, region (if applicable), and specific site (if applicable); the specific site information may comprise a site name, name of a specific island or water body (e.g. Tahiti iti, Loch Fyne) and a county or state name if relevant. It is best to search on a single location keyword or simple phrase, e.g. 'Scotland' or 'Menai Strait', although some geographical distinctions are made in the location data, e.g. west Scotland, south west Wales. Remember, though, if you type in 'southwest Wales' images with the location field of 'south west Wales' will not be found. If you type in a location, such as 'South Pacific' and no images are returned, try typing in just 'Pacific'. The search will only return images where the exact location name has been entered as a keyword or phrase.

Marine Wildlife has tried to use the location names commonly in use, in general using the English spelling of a location (e.g. 'Inishmore' rather than 'Inish Mór').

Keyword:

The keywords entered into the database include scientific name, common name, location, image reference number and general keywords including basic taxonomic classification of species, e.g. for any anemone, there will also be the keywords 'cnidaria', 'anthozoa' and then the class and order, e.g. hexacorallia', 'actinaria'. Because slightly different terminology is sometimes used for classifying some species, try searching on different options or parts of words if a search does not return any results.

If you are searching on a single keyword for a group of species, e.g. dolphin, shark, it is best to use the keyword search field for this rather than the common name search field.