

Report of the Sea Cucumber *Stichopus hermanni* from Umm Al-Maradim and Qaruh Islands in Kuwait

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Abstract : Recently, sea cucumbers have shown to be significant to global trade and incomes due to their high commercial value for the pharmaceutical and cosmetics industry. This rising demand for sea cucumber products has created increasing harvest stress on the natural populations and led to the depletion of sea cucumbers stocks worldwide and accordingly there is a big concern on the marine environment's health worldwide. Few species have been reported and identified via morphological features only. Several sea cucumber species were collected from the North West side reefs at Qaruh Island, and the north side of Umm Al-Maradem Island in Kuwait waters, in the north-western Arabian Gulf, in order to identify the sea cucumber species available in the Kuwaiti waters. The identified species were *Holothuria atra*, *Holothuria arenicola*, *Holothuria hilla* and *Holothuria impatiens*. Species identification was made using morphological keys and review of their ossicles. This paper reports the species *Stichopus hermanni* from Kuwait.

Keywords : *Stichopus hermanni*, Kuwait waters, Arabian Gulf, ossicles

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