

# *Goniobranchus annulatus* (Eliot, 1904)



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KISH ISLAND  
PERSIAN GULF

①	20° 30' 30.96" N 54° 7' 59.47" E	④	26° 32' 55.84" N 53° 54' 0.11" E
②	20° 32' 22.52" N 54° 2' 8.91" E	⑤	26° 32' 7.74" N 53° 54' 1.35" E
③	20° 34' 17.50" N 53° 58' 20.61" E	⑥	26° 29' 25.16" N 53° 59' 44.95" E



Kingdom: Animalia  
Phylum: Mollusca  
Class: Gastropoda  
Order: Nudibranchia

Family: Chromodorididae  
Genus: *Goniobranchus*  
Species: *G. annulatus*

*Goniobranchus annulatus* is a species of sea slug, a very colourful dolid nudibranch, a shell-less marine gastropod mollusc. *G. annulatus* inhabits various sections of coral reefs, ranging from the shallow subtidal adjacent to mangrove forests up to 15 m depth near the reef crest. *G. annulatus* forms mating aggregations similar to those found in many sea hares. *G. annulatus* is simultaneous hermaphrodites. Both individuals darts their penis toward each other to induce one to act as a male and the other as the female. The victorious one to penetrate the body wall is the dominant male. Eggs are deposited on a substratum where they develop and hatch into (planktonic) vestigial veliger larval stage and further grow as adults. On warm summer days when the fish tend to head for deeper and somewhat cooler water, *G. annulatus* can often be seen on the wrecks or even on the sand around them. Maximum length is 6 cm in Persian Gulf (Iran, Kish Island). *G. annulatus* colors stem from the ability to retain pigments from their sponge diet. These resultant bright colors work as a passive defense mechanisms they are a form of aposomatic, or warning coloration.

**Food:** *Goniobranchus annulatus* feeds zoobenthos including tunicates and sponges.

**Distribution:** *Goniobranchus annulatus* was described from Zanzibar, Red Sea, the Indian Ocean, from the East Coast of South Africa to Thailand. It is a Lessepsian migrant and has recently invaded the Mediterranean Sea, presumably through the Suez Canal. *G. annulatus* has reported in Iranian waters (Persian Gulf and Oman Sea).