

Pseudobiceros kryptos (Newman & Cannon, 1997)



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KISH ISLAND
PERSIAN GULF



Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Platyhelminthes
Class: Turbellaria
Order: Polycladida

Family: Pseudoceritidae
Genus: *Pseudobiceros*
Species: *P. kryptos*

Pseudobiceros kryptos is usually found on colonial ascidians under rubble on the reef crest or reef slope. *P. kryptos* is free swimming flatworm. **New record is given from Persian Gulf (Iran, Kish Island).** *P. kryptos* is the only polyclads which actively swim with exaggerated undulations of its ruffled margin. This, along with flamboyant coloration, is thought to be aposematic or warning behavior advertising their suspected unpalatability to visual predators such as fish. *P. kryptos* is in part: "Background color variable; mottled olive green to lime green and white, large irregular brown and olive green spots on the margin, large irregular orange-brown spots and white dots scattered over dorsal surface, darker medially. Margin narrow, yellow. Gut diverticula usually green. Largest animals with narrow interrupted brown margin and large transverse cream-white bands. Ventral surface light olive green. Cerebral eyespot in clear, oval area with up to 100 eyes. Maximum length is 80 x 25 mm in **Persian Gulf (Iran, Kish Island)**. Size range 12 x 7 mm (immature) to 40 x 18 mm (mature) in other sites. Male pores well separated. One animal was found with several symbiotic copepods (*Pseudoanthessius* sp.) which appeared to be living near the pharynx. Named from the Latin (masculine) *kryptos* = hidden, for its cryptic coloration.

Distribution: *Pseudobiceros kryptos* has been seen in Iranian Waters **Persian Gulf (Iran, Kish Island)**. This species has been found in in Coral Bay, West Australia, Indonesia, Philippines.