



## SLAKELOCKS ANEMONE

The Snakelocks Anemone is a sea anemone found in Gibraltar.

On average the Snakelocks Anemone grows up to 8cm wide.

The tentacles of these anemones are usually a deep green colour with purple tips. The tentacles are green because they have algae living within them. Algae use sunlight as a source of energy, and prefer brightly lit shallow waters.

The Snakelocks Anemone eats small fish and shrimp.

The tentacles of a Snakelocks Anemone are also filled with venom. This venom is a mix of toxins, including neurotoxins, which paralyze the prey. These toxins help the anemone to catch their food. When a small fish or shrimp moves past the anemone and touches the tentacles, the toxin is released and paralyzes it. This allows the anemone to slowly catch and eat its food.



Snakelocks Anemones are very impressive considering their two-coloured tentacles and the length of these. These animals are common on rocky seashores, especially in rock pools.

Snakelocks Anemones can only be found in the Mediterranean Sea and within the eastern Atlantic Ocean from North Africa and the Canary Islands to the British Isles.

It is illegal to catch Snakelocks Anemones in Gibraltar's waters as they are protected under our Nature Protection Act.

### SEA ANEMONE (GENERAL FACTS)

- \* Sea anemones are a group of animals that hunt and live in the water. Most species inhabit tropical reefs, although there are species which have adapted themselves to live in colder waters, intertidal reefs and sand/kelp environments.
- \* Anemones can have anywhere from a few tens to a few hundred tentacles.
- \* Anemone fish (clownfish), found in the warmer waters of the Indian and Pacific oceans, are not affected by an anemone's toxins. Because of this, these fish shelter themselves from predators among the anemone's tentacles.  
*(See picture below)*
- \* Most sea anemones are not harmful to humans, but a few highly toxic species have caused severe injuries and can be potentially lethal.

