



**miquel
pontes**

Chromodoris krohni

Described by V erany in 1846 as *Glossodoris krohni*, this is an small sized nudibranch reaching a maximum length of 30 mm. Its body is long and tall and this species can be easily identified by its colour, which can be pink, light blue or purple.

There are three yellow or white lines running along the notum of the animal, and yellow or white spots can often be seen between them. The dorsum is circled by a thick band of the same colour.

The rhinophores are lamellated are coloured dark red or purple and the branchial plume, which consists of 3 to 7 unipinnate branches, is coloured the same way. These organs can be retracted into their sheaths if the animal is disturbed, but a little patience has its reward and, in a few minutes, when the animal uses all the available oxygen of its blood, it extends the branchial plume again.

This species is hermaphroditic, so are all the nudibranchs, and this is the reason it possesses active sexual organs of both sexes. This strategy increases the possibilities of reproduction, as every other specimen of the species is an eligible partner. Copulation results in a cross-fertilization among the two individuals, as can be seen in the picture that illustrates this month's article.

This species is considered endemic (exclusive) to the Mediterranean Sea. It can be spotted on rocky bottoms, the juveniles under the rocks, but all in shady places or at depths greater than 10 meters. The *Chromodoris krohni* feeds on sponges of the gender *Ircina* and it is considered as not frequent.

The name of the gender *Chromodoris* suggests a brightly coloured *dorid*. *Doris* was a marine nymph of the Greek mythology, wife of Nereo and mother of the Nereids.

Readers can find more information at Erwin K ohler's site for Mediterranean Nudibranchs: **Medslugs** (http://www.medslugs.de/E/Mediterranean/Chromodoris_krohni.htm)

