



Sea Pickles- Not for Eating

Sea cucumbers, also known as pickles, can be found in shallow seagrass beds of Biscayne Bay. Sea cucumbers belong to the Class Echinodermata along with sea urchins and sea stars. These slimy, oblong invertebrates come in various shades of brown, yellow, and orange. Small knob-like nodules are seen along the back often in a contrasting shade or color to the body. Underwater, they sometimes look like flowers when they extend 10-inch-long filaments from one end of their body. This acts like a filter, sieving the water and trapping tiny food particles on their sticky surface. Some sea cucumbers stretch their tentacles as long as 20 inches. When too much sand and sediment waste accumulates in their body, sea cucumbers expel their stomach and digestive guts to grow new ones.

Biscayne Bubbles

Sea Grant
Florida

