

other words, any percentage error in determining length will lead to a percentage error in estimating weight that is almost three times as high. Additionally (except when working underwater), weight measurements are generally quicker, less subjective and more accurately made than lengths, as long as suitable balances are available.

*Holothuria scabra* from Southeast Asia appears generally to be smaller than the same species from the South Pacific. One can speculate whether this is due

to current heavy fishing, many generations of fishing having exerted a selective pressure for quick maturation and breeding at a small size, or some more fundamental difference. It would also be interesting to know whether sandfish from other areas, and those recently collected from the wild, fit into the same length–weight relation.

## Natural spawning observation of *Holothuria tubulosa*

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**Species:** *Holothuria tubulosa*, Gmelin 1788

**Depth:** 1.5–2 m, close to shore.

**Location:** Cala Montgo, near L'Escala on the north east coast of Spain, known as Costa Brava, Mediterranean Sea.

**Moon phase:** New moon was on 29 June 2003, so the spawning event might have taken place from two days before to four days after new moon.

**Date and time:** Unfortunately, the date was not precisely recorded. Photo was taken between 27 June and 3 July 2003 at 15:00.

**Note:** Several other sea cucumbers were spawning in the area at the same time.



*Holothuria tubulosa*  
Photo: Adrian Valls