

THE HIDDEN LIFE OF *GWYNIA CAPSULA* (JEFFREYS, 1859) (BRACHIOPODA, TEREBRATULIDA) A MINUTE ARTICULATE BRACHIOPOD NEW TO THE SOUTHERN NORTH SEA

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We report on the occurrence and habitat in Belgian marine waters of the minute brachiopod *Gwynia capsula* (Jeffreys, 1859). Living specimens were found attached to the inside of empty shells and shell fragments collected in the coarse sediments of the Westhinder area. We herewith document the presence of a recent brachiopod for the Southern North Sea fauna. Prior to our observations, this species had not been found alive and its status in the North Sea was unclear. Our findings in an overlooked biotope (gravel grounds with coarse sands) suggest that *G. capsula* is probably not uncommon and that the species might have a wider distribution in suitable habitats throughout the North Sea.