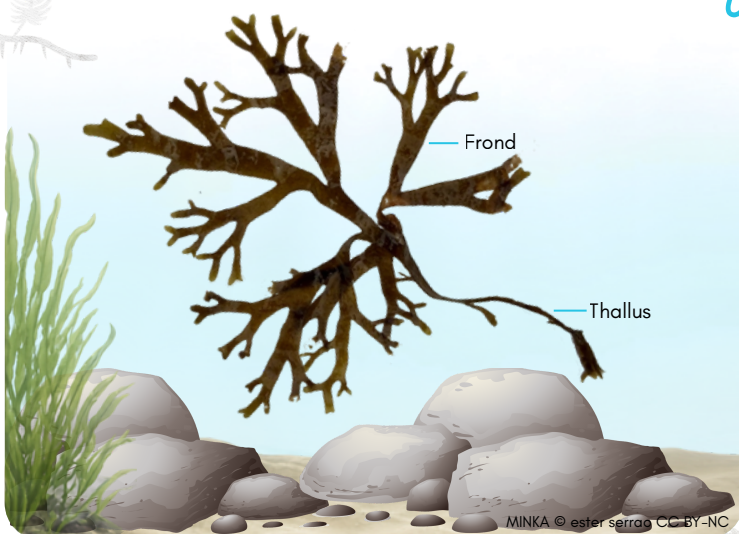


Northwest Pacific

brown alga - *Rugulopteryx okamurae*



Photoautotroph



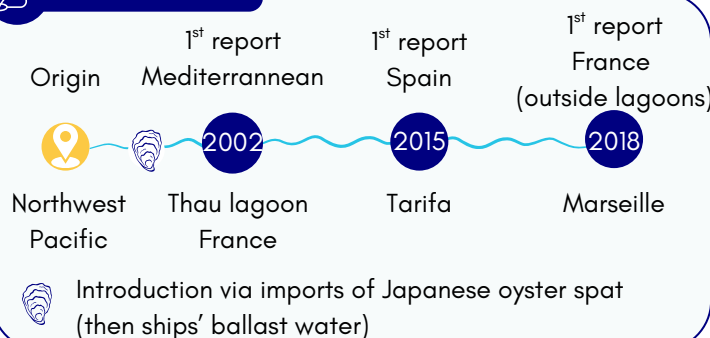
IDENTIFICATION CRITERIA

Structure : Flat, ribbon-like, and wavy fronds thicker at the edges and dichotomously branched

Color : yellowish-brown to dark brown



ITS HISTORY



ECOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Rugulopteryx okamurae massively covers rocky seabeds, smothering local flora and causing the death of protected species such as gorgonians and corals. Protected by repellent chemical compounds (diterpenes), it avoids predation by local herbivores and even outcompetes other invasive algae, thus proliferating without **natural regulation**. Its expansion leads to significant **economic losses**: it clogs fishing nets, **reducing catches** and **increasing costs** for fishermen, while the accumulation of decomposing biomass on beaches diminishes **tourist appeal** and creates **foul odors**.

FUN FACTS

1st **alga** in the list of invasive alien species of Union concern

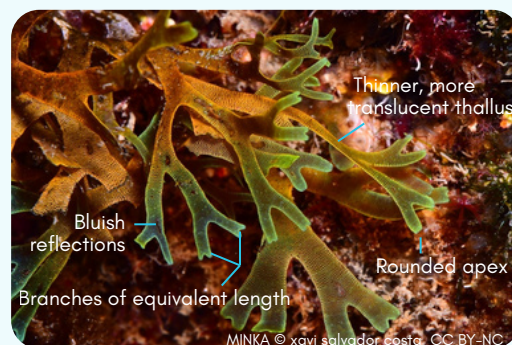
Only alga to produce **dilgamural**, a **chemical weapon** anti-herbivores.

Survives **3 weeks** in the dark

SIMILAR SPECIES

Forkweed - *Dictyota dichotoma*

Native Mediterranean brown alga (typically observed between February and August)



Report your observation

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Image : <https://minka-sdg.org/>