

# Seafan

(*Gorgonia ventalina*)



Seafan

## Instant ID

- Thin fan-shaped superorganism (living thing made from several individual organisms)
- Has thin branches connecting the fronds (lacy areas) of the fan
- Can grow up to seven feet tall

## Native Niches

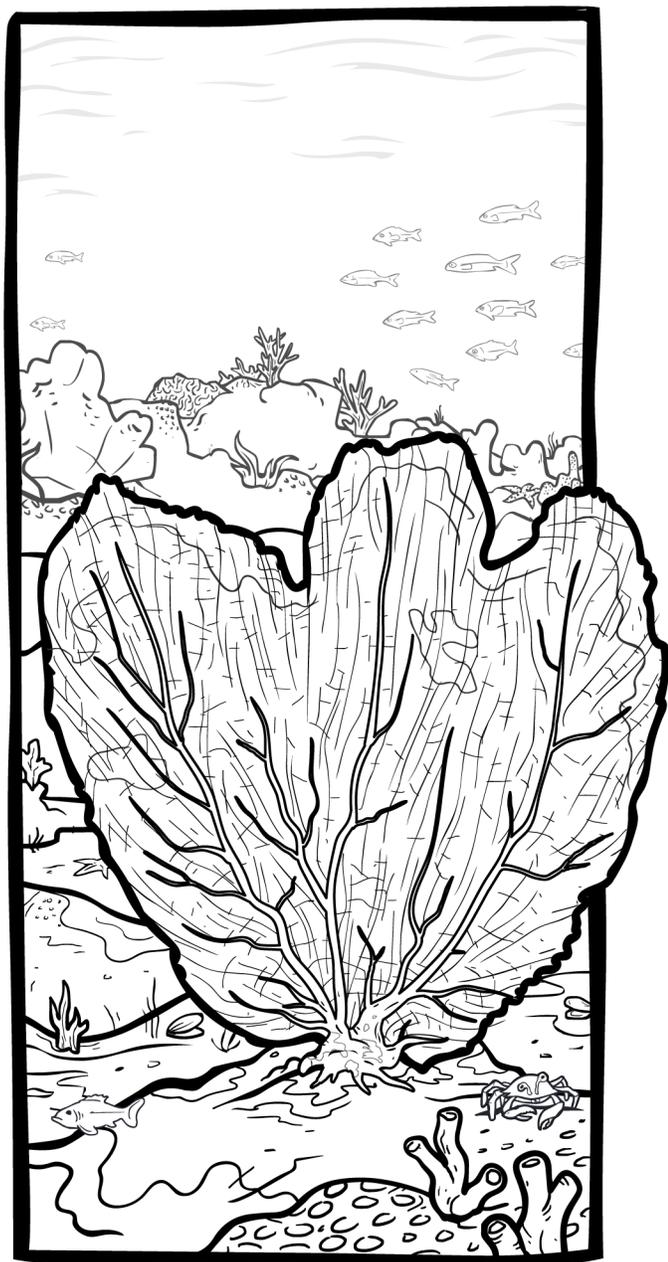
- Prefers shallow coral reefs close to shore
- Found in reefs in the western Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean Sea
- Stays fixed in place throughout its life

## Favorite Foods

- Can take food from algae living on it
- Uses small tentacles to collect zooplankton (small organisms floating in the water)

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## Critter Characteristics

- Direction of growth is determined by the current
- Has two ways to reproduce
- Chemicals in its environment can cause its purple color to become pink or brown
- Has been used in medical research
- Young seafans will grow in any direction

## Population Protection

- Polluted water can cause tumors on the seafan
- Be careful never to touch seafans, as they can detach if disturbed
- Learn more at [FloridasCoralReef.org](http://FloridasCoralReef.org)

