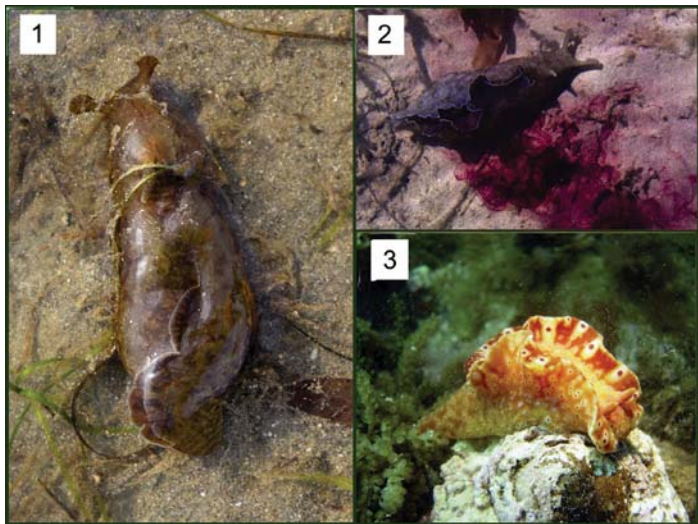


Sea Slugs and Sea Hares



Some groups of gastropods have either very thin and much reduced shells, or as in the case of the *nudibranchs*, or sea slugs, no shell at all. These animals rely on chemicals (taste toxic!) and colour (looks really nasty!) deterrents to avoid becoming lunch for their neighbours.

Nudibranchs are brightly coloured sea slugs that have their feathery gills on the outside of their body, unlike most molluscs where they are hidden by a shell or the mantle, hence the name *nudi* – meaning naked, and *branch* – referring to the gills.

	Names	Description
1	<i>Aplysia sydneyensis</i> Sea Hare	Sea Hares are a group of large slug-like molluscs, with a thin shell hidden beneath folds in the skin and obvious rolled tentacles.
2	<i>Aplysia sydneyensis</i> Length to 150 mm	These seemingly defenceless animals can produce a vivid purple dye to ward off predators themselves if disturbed from their grazing.
3	<i>Ceratosoma brevicaudatum</i> Short-tailed Sea Slug	This spectacular animal can be found amongst rockpools or on the reef edge where it feeds on otherwise toxic sponges or bryozoans.