



## Melanochlamys Droupadi

[Source: TH](#)

The [Zoological Survey of India \(ZSI\)](#) has named a new marine species of **head-shield sea slug with ruby red spot** which was discovered along the coasts of West Bengal and Odisha, after President Droupadi Murmu, named ***Melanochlamys droupadi***.

- Species of the genus *Melanochlamys* are characterised **morphologically by a short, blunt and cylindrical body and a smooth dorsal surface** with two dorsal equal or unequal shields, named the anterior cephalic and posterior shield.
- The species is small, brownish-black, with a ruby red spot at the hind end, and is a hermaphrodite.
- Reproduction of the species is observed between **November and January**.
- *Melanochlamys droupadi* **secrete transparent mucus, shielding them from sand grains** while crawling beneath smooth sand, making its body rarely visible.
- The ZSI states that while species in this group are **typically found in temperate regions of the Indo-Pacific Oceanic** realm, three species are truly tropical: ***Melanochlamys papillata*** from the Gulf of Thailand, ***Melanochlamys bengalensis*** from West Bengal and Odisha coast, and the *Melanochlamys droupadi*.



