

# Woman's view of the sea

Theme 9

How do snails adapt to different temperatures?

Presented by Anja Westram, Researcher from Nord University



Some species occur under a wide range of temperature conditions. The marine snail *Littorina saxatilis*, with a distribution spanning from Spain and Portugal to northern Norway and Greenland, is such a species. We aim to find out what it is that enables the snails to deal with hot or cold conditions, e.g. which genes are responsible for heat tolerance. Then, we can ask: Do heat-tolerant characteristics and genes only occur in the south, or also in some snails in northern populations? That way, we can find out if northern populations are "prepared" for a warming climate.

