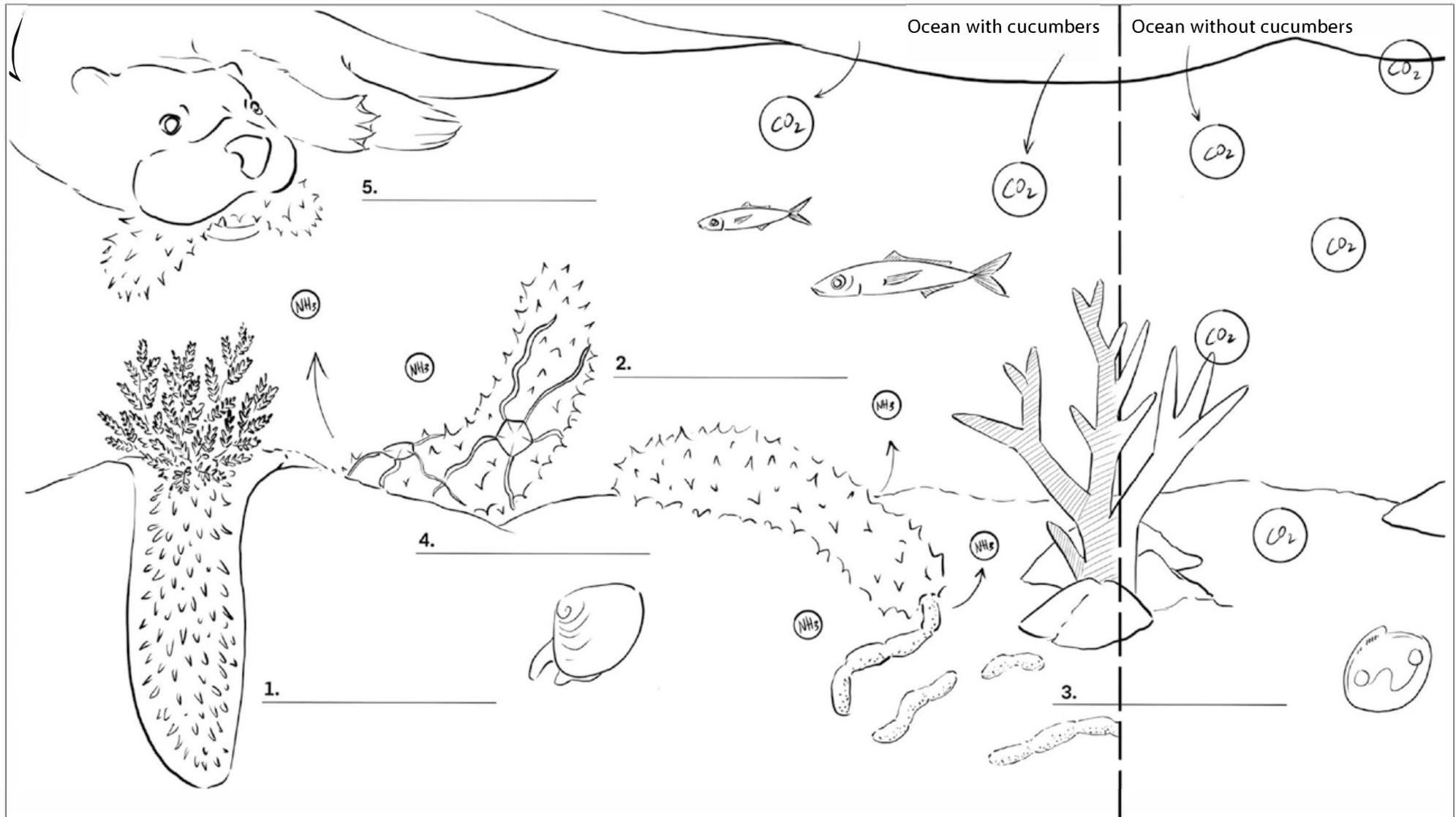


Sea cucumber, a great unknown. What is its role in the oceans?



Sea cucumbers are very important animals in the ocean because: 1. those that live buried help to aerate the sea bottom, 2. the type of food (detritivorous) favours the recycling of nutrients, 3. they reduce the acidity of the ocean, counteracting one of the effects caused by climate change, 4. they are home to other animals, increasing the number of species (greater biodiversity) and, 5. they serve as food for other animals (trophic chain).

- 1. Aeration
- 2. Recycling of nutrients
- 3. Reduction of acidity
- 4. Biodiversity
- 5. Trophic chain



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She is a biologist and has an Inter-university Master Degree in Marine Biology (Specialty in Marine Resources Exploitation). She has been working in different marine companies in the fields of aquaculture, project management, field-work and quality research. During the last five years, her professional activity has been focusing on the culture of marine organisms (microalgae, mollusks, echinoderms, and fish) and the study and management of marine resources. Nowadays, she is working as research staff in two projects funded by Xunta de Galicia: *Study of biology, population status and genetic diversity of holothurians (Holothuria forskali) in Ria of Vigo* and *Study of spatial variability of the reproductive cycle of razor-shells in Ria of Vigo and their application to fisheries management*.

Clara Cerviño

She is biologist and scientific illustrator. After graduating in Biology from Universidade de Santiago de Compostela and studying two masters at Universitat de Barcelona, she arrived in Portugal. There, she had the opportunity to participate in a Training Course in Scientific Illustration at Universidade de Aveiro, and combine thereby her two passions: Biology and Drawing. Since then, she works as a professional scientific illustrator. Furthermore, she is member of the advisory committee of Ilustraciencia and teacher in the academy of the same name.