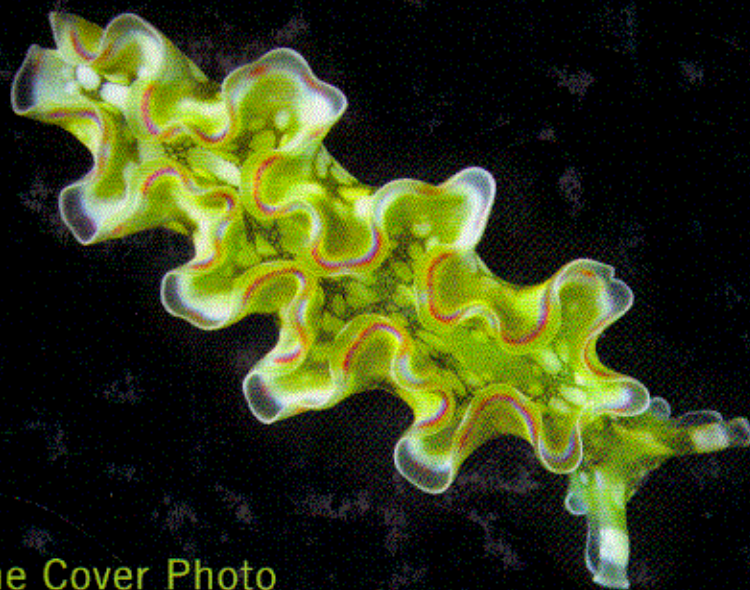




About the Cover Photo

Elysia crispata, the so-called "lettuce sea slug," has evolved into a remarkable combination of animal and plant. As the slug feeds on green algae, special digestive cells take up intact chloroplasts that continue to photosynthesize for weeks, providing the slug with photosynthetically-fixed carbon as an energy source. These slugs are commonly found sunbathing in shallow waters of the Caribbean, reaping the rewards of an evolutionary innovation that has made them the ultimate vegetarians. The slugs are quite large, reaching lengths of up to about 5 cm.