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dictionary

of the
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o·pis·tho·branch  (ə-pĭs thə-brāŋk')

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n. pl. o·pis·tho·branches

Any of a group of marine gastropods characterized by gills located behind the heart, a shell that is reduced or absent, and two pairs of tentacles, and including the sea slugs and the sea butterflies.

[From New Latin *Opisthobranchia*, former subclass name : Greek *opistho-*, behind; see [OPISTHOGNATHOUS](#) + Greek *branchia*, gills.]

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Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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