



MarLIN

Marine Information Network

Information on the species and habitats around the coasts and sea of the British Isles

A bryozoan (*Crisularia plumosa*)

MarLIN – Marine Life Information Network
Marine Evidence-based Sensitivity Assessment (MarESA) Review

Sonia Rowley

2007-09-12

A report from:

The Marine Life Information Network, Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom.

Please note. This MarESA report is a dated version of the online review. Please refer to the website for the most up-to-date version [<https://www.marlin.ac.uk/species/detail/4>]. All terms and the MarESA methodology are outlined on the website (<https://www.marlin.ac.uk>)

This review can be cited as:

Rowley, S.J. 2007. *Crisularia plumosa* A bryozoan. In Tyler-Walters H. and Hiscock K. (eds) *Marine Life Information Network: Biology and Sensitivity Key Information Reviews*, [on-line]. Plymouth: Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom. DOI <https://dx.doi.org/10.17031/marlinsp.4.1>



The information (TEXT ONLY) provided by the Marine Life Information Network (MarLIN) is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Non-Commercial-Share Alike 2.0 UK: England & Wales License. Note that images and other media featured on this page are each governed by their own terms and conditions and they may or may not be available for reuse. Permissions beyond the scope of this license are available [here](#). Based on a work at www.marlin.ac.uk

(page left blank)



Crisularia plumosa at Firestone Bay in Plymouth Sound.
 Photographer: Keith Hiscock
 Copyright: Dr Keith Hiscock

See online review for
 distribution map

Distribution data supplied by the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (OBIS). To interrogate UK data visit the NBN Atlas.

Researched by	Sonia Rowley	Refereed by	Admin
Authority	(Pallas, 1766)		
Other common names	-	Synonyms	-

Summary

Description

The buff to orange colonies of *Crisularia plumosa* comprise several feathery tufts up to 8 cm in height. Each 'tuft' consists of spirally arranged branches that arise from a mass of tangled rhizoids. The slender zooids are ca 0.4-0.5 x 0.1-0.2 mm and arranged in two rows along the branches. In this species, over three-quarters of the frontal surface has a membranous covering. The zooids outer margin protrudes distally to form an unjointed spine. No spine is present on the inner margin. The avicularia are very small, shorter than the width of the zooids and have a slightly down curved lip (beak). The polypides have 14 tentacles.

Recorded distribution in Britain and Ireland

This species is widely distributed throughout the British Isles and Ireland but recorded predominantly in the south.

Global distribution

-

Habitat

This species can be found in small groups or as a 'turf' on rocks or other hard surfaces, especially on harbour walls and pier pilings. It is a littoral and sublittoral species down to >50 m depth.

↓ Depth range

-

Q Identifying features

- Colonies are buff to orange in colour.
- Colonies consisting of several spirally branched tufts up to 8 cm in height.
- The zooids are arranged in two rows along the branches.
- The zooids are slender ca 0.4-0.5 x 0.1-0.2 mm.
- An unjointed spine is present on the outer margin of the zooids.
- The avicularia are very small.
- Polypides have 14 tentacles.

🏛️ Additional information

Crisularia plumosa may be mistaken for *Bugulina flabellata* due to their similar tufted appearance although *Bugulina flabellata* has much broader flattened 'tufts'. Like most other bryozoan species, *Crisularia plumosa* is predated upon by various species of nudibranchs such as *Janolus cristatus* and *Polycera faeroensis*. *Crisularia plumosa* is primarily a southern species replaced mainly by *Crisularia purpurotinca* in the north of the British Isles.

The ovicells of this species appear globular when full of embryos. The embryos are yellow and present from July to September. The first zooid to form a colony after metamorphosis from a free-swimming larvae (known as the ancestrula) is vase-shaped, having a circular, terminal frontal membrane with no surrounding spines (Ryland & Hayward, 1977).

✓ Listed by

🔗 Further information sources

Search on:



Bibliography

- Bruce, J.R., Colman, J.S. & Jones, N.S., 1963. *Marine fauna of the Isle of Man*. Liverpool: Liverpool University Press.
- Costello, M.J., Bouchet, P., Boxshall, G., Emblow, C. & Vanden Berghe, E., 2004. European Register of Marine Species [On-line]. <http://www.marbef.org/data/erms.php>,
- Foster-Smith, J. (ed.), 2000. *The marine fauna and flora of the Cullercoats District. Marine species records for the North East Coast of England*. Sunderland: Penshaw Press, for the Dove Marine Laboratory, University of Newcastle upon Tyne.
- Gibson, R., Hextall, B. & Rogers, A., 2001. *Photographic guide to the sea and seashore life of Britain and north-west Europe*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Hayward, P.J. & Ryland, J.S. (ed.) 1995b. *Handbook of the marine fauna of North-West Europe*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Howson, C.M. & Picton, B.E., 1997. *The species directory of the marine fauna and flora of the British Isles and surrounding seas*. Belfast: Ulster Museum. [Ulster Museum publication, no. 276.]
- MarLIN (Marine Life Information Network), 2005. SEArchable Benthic Data (SEABED) Map [on-line]. *Data Access Sub-programme, Marine Life Information Network for Britian and Ireland* <http://www.marlin.ac.uk>,
- MBA (Marine Biological Association), 1957. *Plymouth Marine Fauna*. Plymouth: Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom.
- Naylor, P., 2003. *Great British Marine Animals*. Plymouth: Sound Diving Publications.
- Picton, B. E. & Morrow, C.C., 1994. *A Field Guide to the Nudibranchs of the British Isles*. London: Immel Publishing Ltd.
- Ryland, J.S. & Hayward, P.J. 1977. *British anascan bryozoans*. London: Academic Press. Synopses of the British Fauna no. 10.
- Wood, E. (ed.), 1988. *Sea Life of Britain and Ireland*. Marine Conservation Society. IMMEL Publishing, London

Datasets

- Fenwick, 2018. Aphotomarine. Occurrence dataset <http://www.aphotomarine.com/index.html> Accessed via NBNAtlas.org on 2018-10-01
- NBN (National Biodiversity Network) Atlas. Available from: <https://www.nbnatlas.org>.
- OBIS (Ocean Biogeographic Information System), 2019. Global map of species distribution using gridded data. Available from: Ocean Biogeographic Information System. www.iobis.org. Accessed: 2019-03-12