

# 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

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**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:

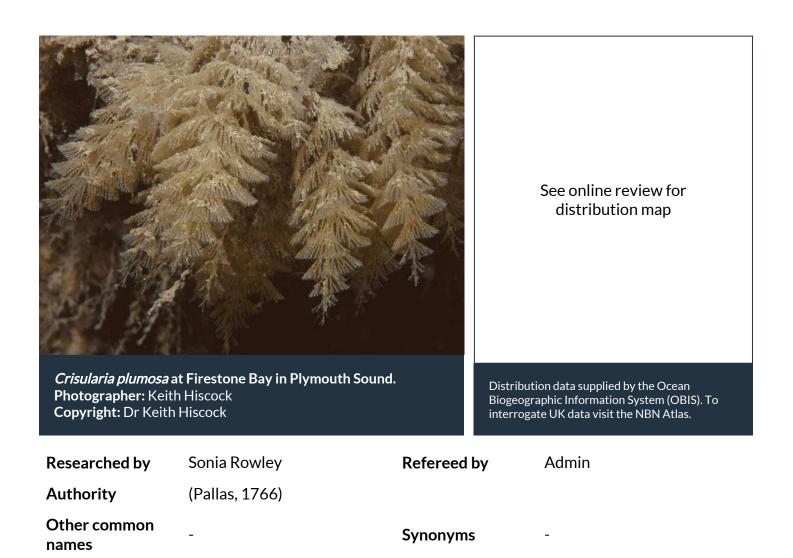
Rowley, S.J. 2007. *Crisularia plumosa* A bryozoan. In Tyler-Walters H. and Hiscock K. (eds) *Marine Life Information Network: Biology and Sensitivity Key Information Reviews*, [on-line]. Plymouth: Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom. DOI https://dx.doi.org/10.17031/marlinsp.4.1



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## **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.

#### 0 **Recorded distribution in Britain and Ireland**

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

#### 0 **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.

### J 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.

#### **1** 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 purpurotincta* 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:



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