

Bugula neritina (Linnaeus, 1758). Tilbrook, 2006, p39, Pl.5C.

Bugula neritina (Linnaeus, 1758)
Plate 5C

Sertularia neritina Linnaeus, 1758: 815.

Bugula neritina: Ryland, 1960: 74; Prenant & Bobin, 1966: 492; Ryland & Hayward, 1977: 162, fig. 78; Fransen, 1986: 66, figs 21 a-d; Gordon, 1989: 21, Fig. 2, fig. G; Fig. 5, fig. F; Seo, 1992: 146; Hayward & Ryland, 1998: 220, fig. 68.

Material examined SBMNH 365072 - 073, 405-84.

Description Colony erect, forming luxuriant tufts up to 8 cm in height, translucent brown in colour when dried (purplish-brown when alive). Autozooids in biserial branches, with bifurcations of type 4 or 5 (Harmer, 1923), alternating, large, narrowing proximally (ca 0.70 x 0.20 mm), entire frontal surface membranous. No spines, but distal angles of autozooids producing pointed projections, particularly free outer angle. Avicularia absent. Ovicell large, globular, attached to inner distal angle, lighter in colour than autozooids.

Remarks *Bugula neritina* is known throughout the world in warmer waters, owing in the main to its prevalence as a species of ports and harbours and its fouling habit. It has been much studied in particular with regard to the novel family of biochemicals, the Bryostatins, which are derived from endosymbiotic bacteria, and are efficacious against leukaemia and various other cancers (Newman, 1996). However, the worldwide distribution of *B. neritina* hides a complex of species with specific habitat requirements (Davidson & Haygood, 1999). Several cryptic "species" of *B. neritina* have been distinguished using the cytochrome-oxidase I gene sequence, chemistry, as well as, to some degree, by habitat and symbiont strain – a commonly occurring 'shallow' "species" and a series of more geographically-restricted 'deep' "species" (Margo Haygood, pers. comm., 2005).

In the Solomon Islands it was found on the hull of the vessel "Wyuna", while at Yandina, Russell Islands. It is possible that it was actually transported to the Solomon Islands by the "Wyuna" itself as the ship had been in an Australian drydock three months previously.

