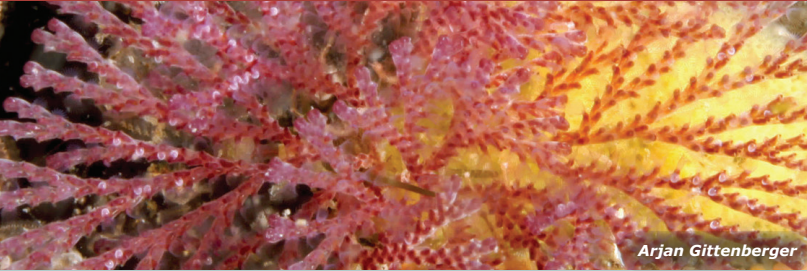


Bushy Bryozoans



Arjan Gittenberger

Bugula neritina
Purple Bushy Bryozoan

Non-Native

Identification

- Deep purple to brownish red
- Colonies up to 4 inches tall
- Branches with two rows of alternating zooids
- Soft to the touch

Distribution

- Reported throughout New England by the early 2000s
- Found throughout New England, more abundant south of Maine
- Native range is unresolved

Close up of the zooids that make up a *B. neritina* colony



Cristina Kennedy



Arjan Gittenberger

Tricellaria inopinata
Unexpected Bryozoan

Non-Native

- Cream to tan
- Colonies up to 2 inches tall
- Branches with two rows of alternating zooids
- Stiff branches, feels “crunchy” when squeezed

Close up of the zooids that make up a *T. inopinata* colony



Tom Ermak

Bushy Bryozoans: Similar Species



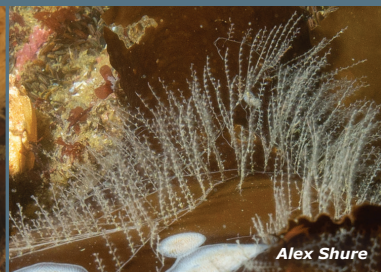
Adrienne Pappal

Amathia verticillata
Spaghetti Bryozoan



Arjan Gittenberger

Phylum Bryozoa
Other Bushy Bryozoans



Alex Shure

Class Hydrozoa
Hydroids



Ignacio Bárbara

Phylum Rhodophyta
Filamentous Red Algae

Non-Native

- Clear, spaghetti-like branches with clumps of small, light-brown specks
- Small to large clumps, can be up to 5 feet or more in width
- May be mistaken for brown seaweed while in the water
- Native origins are unknown, widespread in warmer waters worldwide
- Occasionally found in Long Island Sound and New Bedford, Massachusetts

Native, Non-Native, and Cryptogenic Species

- Similar bushy bryozoans are also present in the region, including the native *Crisularia turrita* (above) and *Bugulina stolonifera* (below)
- Generally light tan or white
- Soft to the touch
- Different branching patterns than MIMIC bushy bryozoans



Robert Aguilar
(Smithsonian)

- Hydroids are animals in the Hydrozoan class
- During their polyp life stage, hydroids live in colonies that are sometimes described as "fern-like"
- More finely branched than bryozoans
- Delicate and very soft to the touch
- Like bryozoans, hydroids attach to surfaces, such as *Obelia geniculata* colonies growing on kelp (above)

- Bryozoans may be confused for filamentous algae
- Algae lack filter-feeding zooids when closely observed, as seen in *Dasysiphonia japonica* (above)



Tom Ermak

B. neritina (left) and the algae *Melanothamnus harveyi* (right)