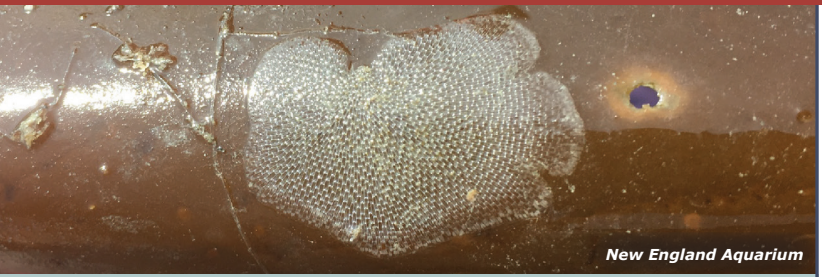
Encrusting Bryozoans



Membranipora membranacea
Lacy Crust Bryozoan

Non-Native

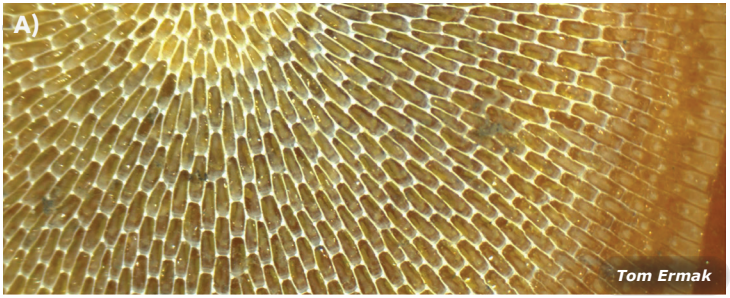
Identification

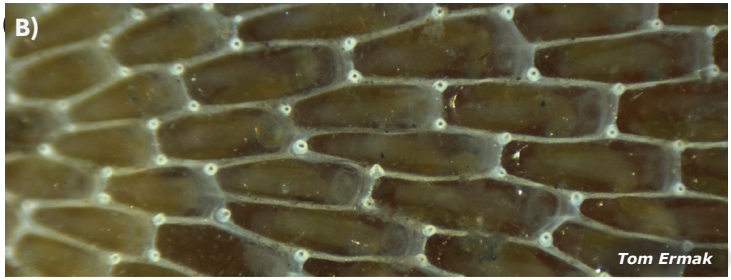
- Colonies form a white or light-gray, lace-like layer with smooth, rounded borders
- Individual zooids are rectangular with short spines, creating a sandpaper-like texture and a brick-like appearance visible with the naked eye or a magnifying lens
- Often grows on native kelp, shading and weakening plants and making them more susceptible to wave damage

Distribution

- First reported in Maine in 1987
- Found throughout New England and the Canadian Maritimes
- Native range is unresolved

***Membranipora membranacea* identification tip**: Distinguishing between species requires close examination of zooid shape and colony arrangement. To confirm a colony is *M. membranacea*, look with your magnifying lens for rectangular shaped zooids in a brick-like arrangement, as shown below in (A) 10x magnification and (B) 40x magnification.





Encrusting Bryozoans: Similar Species









Electra pilosa
Hairy Sea-Mat

Native

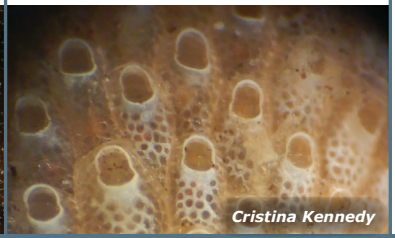
- White, lace-like bryozoan
- Colonies tend to have irregular edges, often star shaped or branching
- Zooids are oval, do not have the rectangular appearance of *M. membranacea*



Cryptosula pallasiana
Keyhole Bryozoan

Cryptogenic

- Orange, tan, rusty, or pink
- Zooids are said to resemble a shoe
- Orifice is"toast-shaped," as shown in the close-up image of the species below



Conopeum spp.
Encrusting Bryozoans

Native, Non-Native, and Cryptogenic Species

- Lace-like in appearence
- White to tan in color
- Colonies grow with smooth, rounded borders
- Zooids are oval
- Colonizes hard substrates, such as rocks and shells, and rarely attaches to seaweeds

Schizoporella spp.
Encrusting Bryozoans

Native, Non-Native, and Cryptogenic Species

- Orange, tan, rusty, or pink
- Zooids are said to resemble a shoe
- Orifice is "skull-shaped," as shown in the close-up image of the non-native *S. japonica* below

