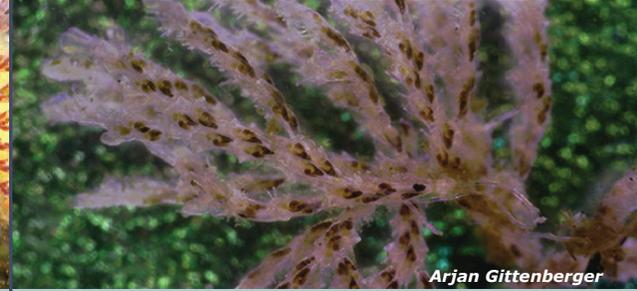




Arjan Gittenberger



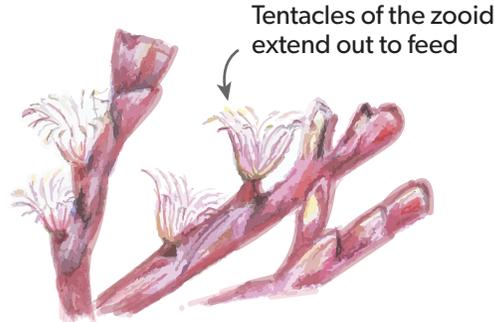
Arjan Gittenberger



Arjan Gittenberger

Bugula neritina
Purple Bushy Bryozoan

- Deep purple to brownish red
- Colonies up to 4 inches tall
- Smooth double strands of connected zooids
- Soft to the touch
- Common fouling organism worldwide in warm waters
- Tolerant of New England water temperatures



Close up view of zooids arranged in branching form

Tricellaria inopinata
Unexpected Bryozoan

- Cream to tan
- Colonies up to 2 inches tall
- Bushy with stiff branches
- Feels "crunchy" when squeezed
- Native to the Western Pacific
- First observed in 2010 in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, now throughout New England



Tom Ermak

Bushy or Erect Bryozoans consist of a colony of filter-feeding individuals (zooids) arranged in a branch-like formation (see illustration). Bryozoans can be found in intertidal to subtidal areas attached to algae or hard substrates, such as docks, shellfish, or rocks.

Similar Species



Cristina Kennedy



Cristina Kennedy

Amathia verticillata Spaghetti Bryozoan

- Clear, spaghetti-like branches with clumps of small, light-brown to amber specks
- Grows in small to large clumps up to 5 feet or more in width
- Can look like brown seaweed in the water, but very distinct up close
- Native origins unknown, widespread in warmer waters worldwide
- Occasionally found in Long Island Sound, Connecticut, and New Bedford, Massachusetts

Any observations of this species in New England are important! If found (or suspected), please take pictures and send to marine.invasives@mass.gov or post to the MIMIC iNaturalist page at www.inaturalist.org/projects/mimic.

Other Similar Species

- Similar bushy bryozoans (such as *Crisularia turrata* and the non-native *Bugulina simplex* and *B. stolonifera*) are generally light tan or white, feel soft to the touch, and have different branching patterns
- Colonies of hydroids (animals that also use small tentacles to feed) are more finely branched and are delicate and very soft to the touch
- Bryozoans may be confused for seaweed underwater but are distinct when closely observed and handled



Arjan Gittenberger

The native *C. turrata* has a distinct whorled or spiral branching pattern.