

## *Watersipora subtorquata* (d'Orbigny, 1852)

Bryozoan

### Description:

It's an encrusting bryozoan, but colonies can become erect and leaf-like, with extensively overlapping calcareous crusts and curled edges. Zooids are roughly elongate-rectangular, 740-1,500 µm X 290-680 µm in size. The frontal shield is perforated by pseudopores. The operculum is strongly pigmented with a dark, broad, biconcave band proximally, gradually spreading around paired clear areas. The orifice is slightly wider than longer, proximal edge, with a V-shaped or rounded sinus and approximately 130 X 260 (mean ~230) µm in size.



### Distribution:

It is an encrusting bryozoan widely distributed around the globe. It is considered non-indigenous to:

- 1950 Australia
- 1973 France
- 1976 Port Phillip Bay, Victoria
- 1983 New Zealand
- **2006 MADEIRA**
- 2007 South Africa

### Some impacts:

This species is tolerant to copper and mercury in antifouling paints. Their hard encrusting colonies can withstand moving water, and their colonies also provide non-toxic attachment points for other organisms, that allow diverse fouling communities to develop, which can adversely affect the speed and efficiency of ships.

