

## *Bugula neritina* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Bryozoan

### Description:

Colonies of *Bugula neritina* form bushy tufts 100 mm or more in height. The tips of the branches show slight spiral growth and the bases consist of two parallel series of zooids. The zooids are large, 600-800 µm, narrowing proximally. Spines are absent, but the distal margin forms an angular projection. The polyps have 23-24 tentacles. It constitutes a widespread species complex of forms which can only be distinguished by molecular methods.



### Distribution:

*Bugula neritina* was described from the Mediterranean Sea in 1758 by Linnaeus. Since then, it has been identified as a species complex of unknown tropical-warm-temperature origin.

- 1881 Australia
- [1909 MADEIRA](#)
- 1937 São Paulo
- 1949 New Zealand
- 1971 Panama Canal
- 1982 Chile
- 1997 Lugo (Spain)
- 2011 Azores
- [2013 PORTO SANTO](#)

### Some impacts:

It has fouled aquaculture nets and cages. It also contributed to fouling which slowed the growth of cultured mussels (Brazil, 2007).

It has a positive economic impact, as a source of bryostatins, potential anticancer compounds (Davidson and Haygood, 1999).

