



MarLIN

Marine Information Network

Information on the species and habitats around the coasts and sea of the British Isles

A sponge (*Polymastia mamillaris*)

MarLIN – Marine Life Information Network
Marine Evidence-based Sensitivity Assessment (MarESA) Review

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A report from:

The Marine Life Information Network, Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom.

Please note. This MarESA report is a dated version of the online review. Please refer to the website for the most up-to-date version [<https://www.marlin.ac.uk/species/detail/1873>]. All terms and the MarESA methodology are outlined on the website (<https://www.marlin.ac.uk>)

This review can be cited as:

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Polymastia mamillaris.
 Photographer: Keith Hiscock
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See online review for
 distribution map

Distribution data supplied by the Ocean
 Biogeographic Information System (OBIS). To
 interrogate UK data visit the NBN Atlas.

Researched by	Susie Ballerstedt	Refereed by	Admin
Authority	(Müller, 1806)		
Other common names	-	Synonyms	-

Summary

🔍 Description

A low, spreading cushion of up to 2 cm thickness with a base diameter of up to 12 cm. The sponge surface is hard and rough with a variable number of erect projections bearing a terminal opening (papillae) that may be as tall as 12 cm. The main body mass is pale, usually greyish yellow or more rarely, orangey yellow, and is often buried in sediment with only the papillae visible. The papillae are smooth and clean, creamy white or pale yellow, sometimes translucent, and often a fine network of spicules can be seen on their surface. The exhalant papillae are large and few in number, the inhalant papillae are smaller.

📍 Recorded distribution in Britain and Ireland

Common around the British Isles.

📍 Global distribution

Arctic-Atlantic coasts of Europe and North America, and the Mediterranean.

🏠 Habitat

Often found at the sediment-bedrock interface on upward facing rock, or growing out of crevices. Prefers silty conditions and is recorded from the littoral to a depth of 2300 m, but usually occurs between 5-15 m.

↓ Depth range

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🔍 Identifying features

- Low, spreading cushion up to 2 cm thick and 12 cm in diameter.
- Main body mass pale greyish yellow, or more rarely, orange-yellow.
- Body surface rough with a number of erect, smooth projections (papillae).
- Papillae creamy white or pale yellow in colour and up to 12 cm in height.
- Exhalant papillae large and few in number, inhalant papillae smaller.

🏛️ Additional information

May be confused with *Polymastia robusta*, however the papillae of this closely related species tend to fuse together, which does not occur in *Polymastia mamillaris*.

✓ Listed by

🔗 Further information sources

Search on:



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Datasets

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