Membranipora membranacea (Linnaeus 1767)  
Membraniporidae  

SCAMIT CODE: MBC54  
Date Examined: 8 September 1986  
Voucher by: Carol Paquette  

SYNONYMY: Flustra membranacea Linnaeus 1767  

LITERATURE: Robertson 1908  
Osburn 1950  
Pinter 1969  

DIAGNOSTIC CHARACTERS:  
1. Encrusting, usually on algae (Macrocystis pyrifera and Egregia laevigata).  
2. Zooecia simple, with thin walls.  
3. The front is membranous, without spinules or cryptocyst.  
4. There is a knob or process (sometimes produced into hollow tubes or short pointed spines) at each corner.  
5. There are no ovicells or avicularia.  

RELATED SPECIES AND CHARACTER DIFFERENCES:  
1. M. tuberculata and M. serrilamella have some development of the cryptocyst (extended side wall).  
2. M. villosa has frontal spinules and chitinous spines at the corners.  
3. M. perfragilis rises into convoluted or filled masses.  

DEPTH RANGE: Intertidal to 20m  

DISTRIBUTION: Europe, Atlantic Coast of North America, Caribbean, Alaska to Baja California, Mexico  

Fig. 8. Membranipora membranacea (Linnaeus).  
Fig. 9. The same, showing a "tower cell."  

from Osburn 1950
"Fig. 19.—Membranipora membranacea Linnaeus. A few zoecia showing branched aperture and distal spines. × 30.

Fig. 19a.—M. membranacea. Outline of the operculum. × 70.

Fig. 20.—M. membranacea. Portion of a zoarium."