

Polymastia cf. massalis

Turtle sponge

ID features

Cushion-shaped sponge, circular to oval, covered with densely packed, short wart-like inhalant papillae <4 mm high giving the sponge a brain-like appearance. Oscules are prominently elevated on turrets in groups of 5–100. Texture rubbery, waxy, cartilaginous, like cork to the touch, compressible, difficult to tear.

Similar species

Latrunculia spp., but these are usually very soft and compressible, and the surface structures are button-like.

Dispersal Mechanisms

Presence in New Zealand

New Zealand distribution

Preferred/known habitats

Biosecurity Status

Biosecurity Risk