

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

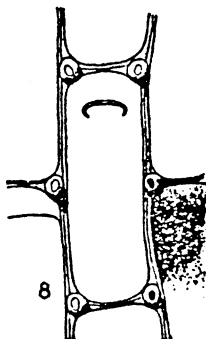


Fig. 8. *Membranipora membranacea* (Linnaeus).  
Fig. 9. The same, showing a "tower cell."

from Osburn 1950

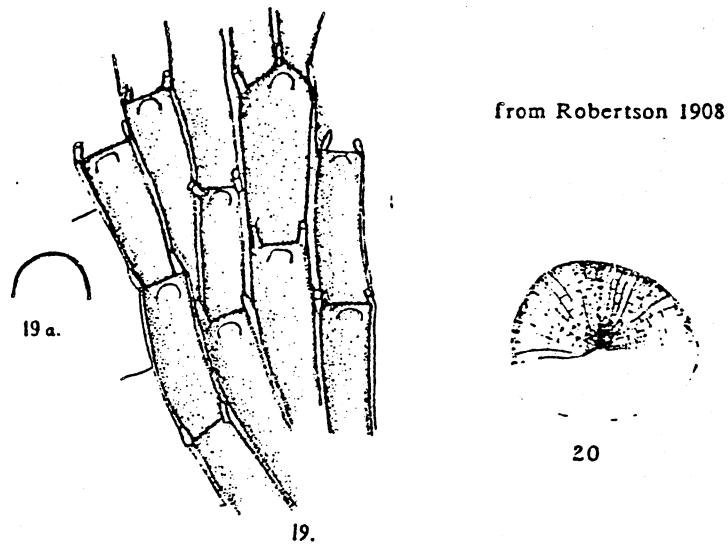


fig. 19.—*Membranipora membranacea* Linnaeus. A few zoecia showing branous aperture and distal spines.  $\times 30$ .

fig. 19a.—*M. membranacea*. Outline of the operculum.  $\times 70$ .

fig. 20.—*M. membranacea*. Portion of a zoarium.