Order Hadromerida

Family Suberitidae

*Aaptos aaptos* (Schmidt) 1864

**COLOUR:** brown, slightly reddish

**TEXTURE AND SURFACE:** when expanded sponge is easily compressible and has a lumpy surface; when contracted sponge is hard and smooth

**DIMENSIONS:** up to 8cm high and 10cm diameter around the head

**DESCRIPTION:** a globe sponge raised on a short fat pedicel. Usually a single apical grouping of oscules. A very few individuals are a paler colour and appear grey-brown.

**OCURRENCE:** abundant in the Sponge Garden and Sediment Flats, also on Deep Reefs and Waterfall Reef. The photograph also shows *Axinella* sp. on the left and *Raspailia topsenti* on the right.
Suberites axinellides Brondsted 1924

COLOUR: pale orange surface, deeper orange internally

TEXTURE AND SURFACE: soft and smooth

DIMENSIONS: occurs in broken patches of up to 20x20cm, 1.0cm thick

DESCRIPTION: sponge forms low mountains on which are perched the oscules

OCCURRENCE: relatively abundant in the Sponge Garden and on Deep Reefs
Suberites sp.

COLOUR: pale brown

TEXTURE AND SURFACE: very soft, smooth

DIMENSIONS: up to 1.0cm diameter

DESCRIPTION: small pimples with a single apical oscule. Also shown in the photograph are S. axinelloides and Eurypon sp.

OCCURRENCE: Deep Reef, not abundant
**Suberites sp.**

**COLOUR:** cream

**TEXTURE AND SURFACE:** very soft and smooth

**DIMENSIONS:** up to 20cm in diameter

**DESCRIPTION:** oscules in small groups over the surface of the sponge.

Surface very thin.

**OCCURRENCE:** Raphoxya Garden
Polymastia sp.

COLOUR: chrome yellow

TEXTURE AND SURFACE: soft when expanded, compressible when contracted smooth

DIMENSIONS: up to 30cm in diameter

DESCRIPTION: a hemispherical sponge often found in groups of three or more. Amphipods live in the dermis.

OCCURRENCE: abundant in the Sponge Garden, Deep Reefs, Outer Waterfall Reef
Polymastia fusc $a$ Bergquist 1961a

COLOUR: olive green when expanded, grey when contracted, dirty yellow inside

TEXTURE AND SURFACE: when expanded the soft is soft and blubbery, when contracted, cartilaginous

DIMENSIONS: up to 35cm diameter

DESCRIPTION: oscules gathered together in honeycombs, surface very lumpy

OCCURRENCE: Deep Reef, Sponge Garden, not common
Polymastia granulosa Brondsted 1923

COLOUR: bright orange

TEXTURE AND SURFACE: Tough, compressible, with a bark-like surface

DIMENSIONS: up to 40cm diameter

DESCRIPTION: this sponge has a thick ectosomal area and non-contractile oscule fistules

OCCURRENCE: occurs in low numbers at Outer Waterfall Reef and Deep Reefs
Polymastia hirsuta Bergquist 1968

COLOUR: maroon surface, dirty yellow internally
TEXTURE AND SURFACE: very soft with a felt like dermis
DIMENSIONS: up to 15cm diameter
DESCRIPTION: a hemispherical sponge with involute oscules (inset)
OCCURRENCE: sandy areas of the Sponge Garden
Polymastia agglutinans Ridley and Dendy 1886

COLOUR: pale cream fingers, pinkish yellow internally
TEXTURE AND SURFACE: fingers and body stiff, base covered in detritus
DIMENSIONS: covers areas of up to 20x20cm, 1.5cm thick, fingers 4cm high
DESCRIPTION: pieces of sediment are incorporated into the dermis
OCCURRENCE: abundant in the Sponge Garden
Polymastia sp.

COLOUR: yellow
TEXTURE AND SURFACE: firm, compressible, smooth
DIMENSIONS: a small sponge covering only 10cm², 0.5cm thick
DESCRIPTION: always encrusting and found in crevices
OCCURRENCE: not common but aggregated in places at the Point (also at Little Barrier and the Mokahinau Is.)
Polymastia sp.

COLOUR: chrome yellow

TEXTURE AND SURFACE: firm, hispid

DIMENSIONS: usually in small patches with one or two fingers, up to 5cm diameter, 0.5cm thick base, fingers 2.5cm high

DESCRIPTION: this sponge is often seen with several buds attached to its fingers

OCCURRENCE: in sandy places in the Sponge Garden and on the Deep Point flats, Waterfall Reef
Polymastia sp.

COLOUR: pink base flecked with white, white fingers
TEXTURE AND SURFACE: firm, smooth
DIMENSIONS: base up to 1.0cm diameter, finger 2.0cm high
DESCRIPTION: sponge appears to grow only a single finger
OCCURRENCE: Sponge Garden, Sediment flat, not common
Stylorella agminata (Ridley) 1884

COLOUR: reddish brown surface, yellow internally
TEXTURE AND SURFACE: spongy, smooth almost fleshy feel
DIMENSIONS: can cover an area of 25x25cm, approximately 2.0cm thick
DESCRIPTION: variable form, can be thin encrusting or produce strange irregular fingers
OCCURRENCE: Waterfall Reef, Deep Reef
Family Clionidae

*Cliona celata* Grant 1826

**COLOUR:** yellow to pale orange

**TEXTURE AND SURFACE:** firm, massive forms have a lumpy surface

**DIMENSIONS:** Massive forms can cover $1m^2$, boring forms that appear through the coralline surface may cover 25x25cm.

**DESCRIPTION:** The collective pore areas and oscules show through the coralline algae in the lower photograph. These sponges use chemicals to etch and dissolve the calcareous material in rocks and coralline algae

**OCCURRENCE:** common everywhere, massive forms abundant at Splendid Reef