

*Membranipora tuberculata* (Bosc, 1802). Gordon, 1984, p.24, Pl.1A.

***Membranipora tuberculata* (Bosc) (Plate 1, A)**

*Flustra tuberculata* Bosc, 1802: 118.

*Membranipora tuberculata*: Busk 1858: 126; Prenant & Bobin 1966: 115 (*cum syn.*); Gregory 1979: 401.

**MATERIAL EXAMINED:** NZOI Stns K816, K834, K836; on algae.

**DISTRIBUTION:** All warm seas; Indian Ocean, Pacific Ocean from Japan to Australia and Fiji, British Columbia to Peru; Massachusetts to Patagonia, and Europe to Angola in the Atlantic. Recently recorded from Hauraki Gulf and northern New Zealand.

**DESCRIPTION:** Colony encrusting. Zooids elongate, 0.47–0.55 × 0.18–0.26 mm, with extensive frontal membrane; operculum as a crescentic chitinised sclerite in the distal part of the membrane. Beneath the frontal membrane proximally is a cryptocystal shelf which is variously developed and from which one or two denticles are directed distally and/or basally. At each proximal corner of the zooid is a gymnocystal tubercle. In the lateral walls, at the level of the distal edge of the cryptocystal, is a hinge-like uncalcified region allowing differential flexing of the colony surface on an undulating algal lamina.

**REMARKS:** This species was first observed in New Zealand (Gordon 1968) on a floating plastic object at Leigh, in the Hauraki Gulf, where it has subsequently been observed by R.F. Whitten (*pers. comm.* 1976). More recently it has been collected from the far north of New Zealand on floating plastic pellets (Gregory 1979). Brown (1952) recorded a fossil variety from the Miocene of Southland.

