

Bugula neritina

Brown bryozoan



CONICET
CENPAT

MARINE-COASTAL EXOTIC SPECIES GUIDE FOR ARGENTINA

DESCRIPTION

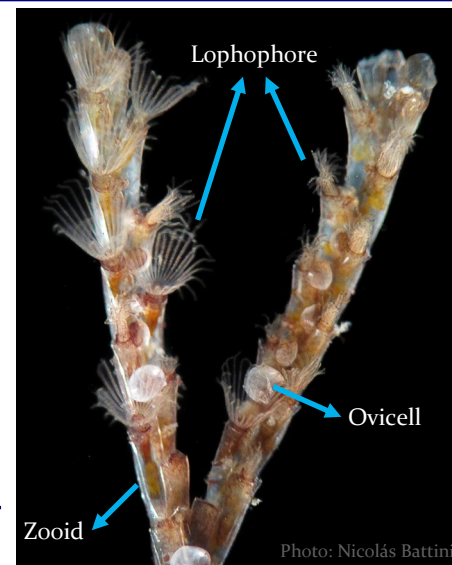
- Colonial animal, very similar to a filamentous seaweed, that forms bushy erect, branched and flexible tufts.
- Color variable between red-purple and light brown.
- Colonies are formed by two rows of elongated zooids (individuals).
- Retractable lophophore (feeding structure) with 23-24 tentacles.
- Lacks spines and avicularia (bird's head defense structures).
- Fertile zooids have a large globose ovicell (external structure where embryos develop).



Up to 10 cm high

HABITAT

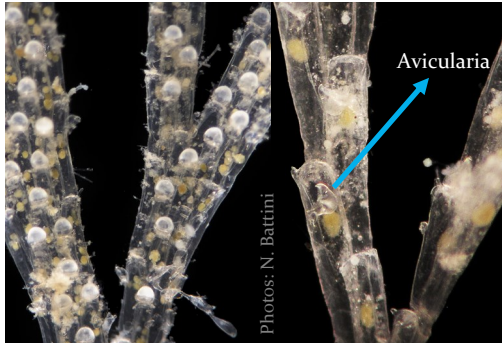
Bugula neritina lives in shallow subtidal environments and occasionally in the intertidal, inside tide pools. It can grow over other organisms and on artificial structures like pilings, buoys and ship hulls, among others.



MARINE-COASTAL EXOTIC SPECIES GUIDE FOR ARGENTINA

Bugula neritina - Brown bryozoan

SIMILAR SPECIES



Bugulina flabellata *Bugulina stolonifera*

- *Bugulina flabellata*: Exotic. Erect white, ivory or light orange colonies formed by 3-8 rows of zooids. Zooids have avicularia and 4-5 spines. Lophophore with 14 tentacles.
- *Bugulina stolonifera*: Exotic. Erect yellowish colonies of up to 5 cm high, with two rows of zooids, which have avicularia and three spines.

INVASIVE STATUS

It is thought that *Bugula neritina* is native to the Northeastern Pacific. Currently, it is widely distributed across temperate and subtropical areas around the world. In Argentina, it was first recorded in 1940 in Malvinas Islands (52° S) and now it is also found in the ports and surrounding areas of Mar del Plata (38° S), Puerto Belgrano (39° S), San Antonio Este (41° S) and Puerto Madryn (42° S).

IMPACT ON NATIVE COMMUNITIES

Although *Bugula neritina* is among the most widely distributed marine exotic species, its impact on native communities has not been studied yet. In some Argentinian ports, it can reach high abundances during the summer.

CONTACT US

This guide has been developed by the Grupo de Ecología en Ambientes Costeros (GEAC), from CENPAT (CONICET). If you find this species outside the reported areas, please contact us and let us know the date, locality, approximate number of individuals and, if possible, send us a picture:

 especiesexoticasarg@gmail.com



Grupo de Ecología en Ambientes Costeros (GEAC)