



MarLIN

Marine Information Network

Information on the species and habitats around the coasts and sea of the British Isles

A sponge (*Homaxinella subdola*)

MarLIN – Marine Life Information Network
Marine Evidence-based Sensitivity Assessment (MarESA) Review

Al Reeve

2005-06-30

A report from:

The Marine Life Information Network, Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom.

Please note. This MarESA report is a dated version of the online review. Please refer to the website for the most up-to-date version [<https://www.marlin.ac.uk/species/detail/2122>]. All terms and the MarESA methodology are outlined on the website (<https://www.marlin.ac.uk>)

This review can be cited as:

Reeve, A. 2005. *Homaxinella subdola* A sponge. In Tyler-Walters H. and Hiscock K. (eds) *Marine Life Information Network: Biology and Sensitivity Key Information Reviews*, [on-line]. Plymouth: Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom. DOI <https://dx.doi.org/10.17031/marlin.sp.2122.1>



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Homaxinella subdola.

Photographer: Keith Hiscock

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See online review for
distribution map

Distribution data supplied by the Ocean
Biogeographic Information System (OBIS). To
interrogate UK data visit the NBN Atlas.

Researched by	Al Reeve	Refereed by	Admin
Authority	(Bowerbank, 1866)		
Other common names	-	Synonyms	<i>Homaxinella subdola</i> , <i>Axinella subdola</i> , <i>Homaxinella subdola</i> (Bowerbank, 1866)

Summary

🔍 Description

This species can range between pale, brownish or golden yellow to an orange or deep orange colour. Growing to 25 cm in height, *Homaxinella subdola* consists of a wiry stalk with rounded branches arising irregularly at right angles to the main stem. Secondary branching gives the sponge an 'untidy' appearance. The exhalent pores (oscles) are small and appear sporadically on the branches.

📍 Recorded distribution in Britain and Ireland

Restricted to south and west coasts with records from Plymouth, the Scilly Isles, Milford Haven, Skokholm Island, Skomer Island and Abereiddi Bay.

📍 Global distribution

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🏠 Habitat

Present on horizontal and slightly inclined rock covered with a layer of silt in sheltered and semi-exposed conditions. Also present in sheltered conditions in exposed areas, e.g. sheltered bottom plains or the bottom of gullies.

↓ Depth range

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🔍 Identifying features

- Pale, brownish or golden yellow to orange or deep orange branching sponge.
- Thin, irregular branching resulting in an 'untidy' appearance.
- Rounded branches arise, usually, at 90° to the main stem.
- Wiry stalk.

🏛️ Additional information

Similar species in appearance are *Axinella polypoides* and *Haliclona oculata*. However the presence of branches growing at right angles, a wiry stalk and an 'untidy', bushy form are characteristic of *Homaxinella subdola*. *Adreus fascicularis* is also similar but generally smaller, more wiry and has a more tidy appearance. The composition of the internal skeleton (i.e. the spicules) are important taxonomic characteristics (see van Soest *et al.*, 2000 for details). As with other *Axinella* species, *Homaxinella subdola* is extremely slow growing and does not colonize artificial reefs (K. Hiscock pers. comm.).

✓ Listed by

🔗 Further information sources

Search on:



Bibliography

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Van Soest, R.W.M., Picton, B. & Morrow, C., 2000. *Sponges of the North East Atlantic*. [CD-ROM] *Windows version 1.0*. Amsterdam: Biodiversity Center of ETI, Multimedia Interactive Software. [World Biodiversity Database CD-ROM Series.]

Datasets

NBN (National Biodiversity Network) Atlas. Available from: <https://www.nbnatlas.org>.

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