



Suberites carnosus (Johnston, 1842)

Fleshy horny sponge

Description

Suberites carnosus is a massive spherical sponge which may be assembled in a series of globulous masses or, in more voluminous forms, composed of large ball-shaped lobes. Simple forms may reach 15 cm in diameter and multi-lobed masses 30 cm in diameter. Usually, each lobe possesses, on its top, a single large oscule. The surface is smooth, soft and its colour varies from pale yellow to yellow orange. It is soft and when disturbed, the fleshy sulphur-sponge can retract a lot.

Similar to

Suberites ficus is a species quite similar to *S. carnosus*. It is less globulous, the oscules are more numerous and its surface is fibrous and slightly rough. In the same geographical area, is also a globular sponge with a single oscule but its roughcast surface clearly distinguishes it from *S. carnosus*.

Classification

Biota (Superdomain)
Animalia (Kingdom)
Porifera (Phylum)
Demospongiae (Class)
Heteroscleromorpha (Subclass)
Suberitida (Order)
Suberitidae (Family)
Suberites (Genus)
Suberites carnosus (Species)

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