

Common Name: hermit crab sponge
Scientific Name: *Suberites latus*
(SUE-ber-eye-tees LAH-tus)



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Defining Characteristics

- Max size of 7.5 cm high or wide
- Colour shades of green, brown and orange
- Suspension feeders

Habitat & Range

- Low intertidal to 35 m deep
- Can live on sandy or muddy bottoms unlike other sponges
- Alaska to southern California

Prey & Predators

- Prey on plankton
- Predator are nudibranchs

Reproduction

- Broadcast *gametes* (sex cells) into the water

Additional Information

- When the sponge settles on the shell housing a hermit crab, it dissolves the shell and keeps growing. The crab never has to look for a bigger home! This relationship is called symbiosis
- The hermit crab helps the sponge escape from hungry predators by carrying the sponge away

Common Name: yellow boring sponge / sulphur sponge
Scientific Name: *Cliona celata*
(KLEE-o-nah see-LAT-ah)



<http://www.habitas.org.uk/marinelife/species.asp?item=C3020>

Defining Characteristics

- Size range of 1-3 mm in diameter
- Clear to yellow colour
- Individuals can be seen as small dots and pores on a shell
- Colonies appear as large yellow wart-like projections

Habitat & Range

- Intertidal to 120 m deep
- On barnacles and shells such as the giant scallop
- Alaska to southern California

Prey & Predators

- Prey on plankton
- Predators are nudibranchs

Reproduction

- Broadcast *gametes* (sex cells) into the water

Additional Information

- Secrete a solution containing sulphuric acid that breaks down the calcium carbonate found in shells, boring a hole in shells
- They are important for recycling calcium carbonate and preventing shells from filling the ocean!
- On the beach you may find shells with a honeycomb hole pattern made by this sponge