

Sponge safari ID sheet



Every dive can be a Seasearch dive

Elephant hide sponge— *Pachymatisma johnstonia*

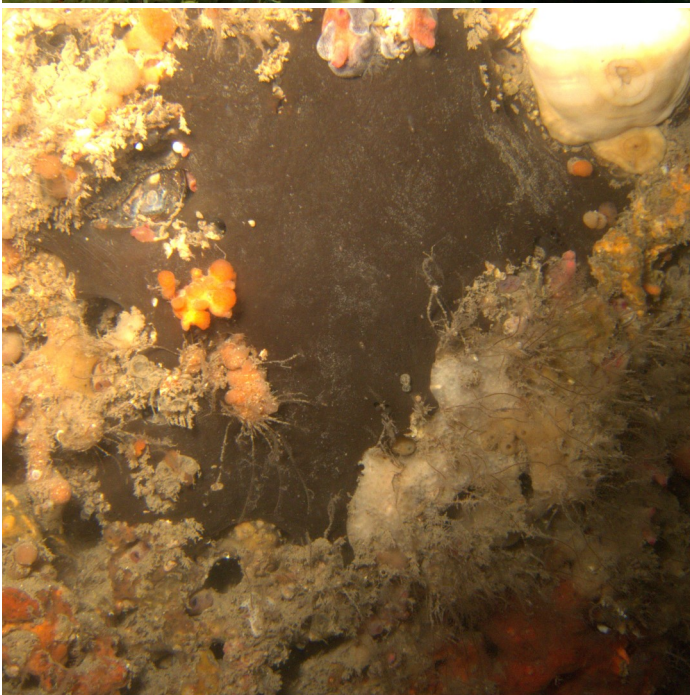
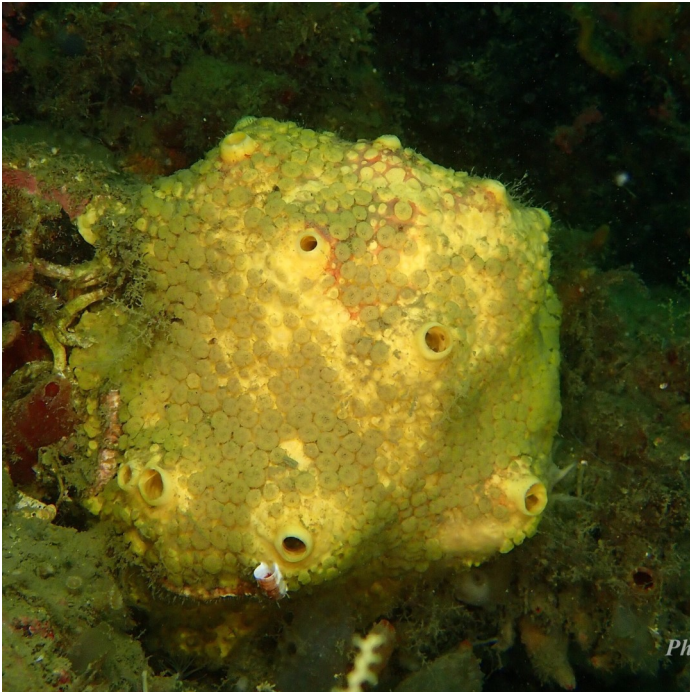
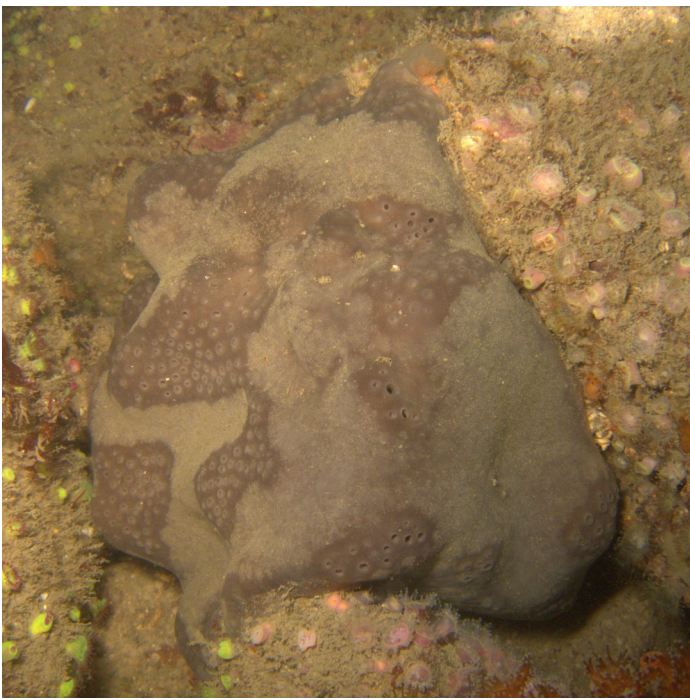
Large pale grey sponge that can occur in lobes, as low flat mass or can occur as massive form up to 50cm in size.

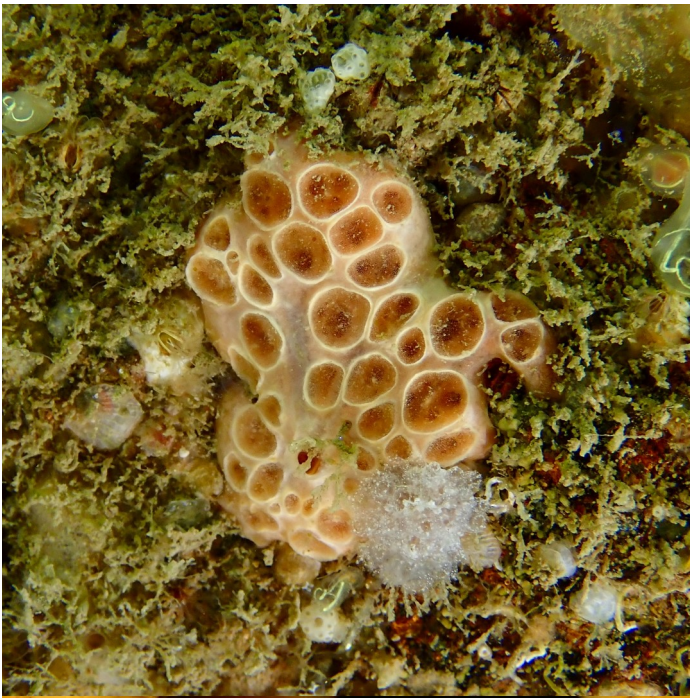
Boring sponge— *Cliona celata*

The massive form of the species is extremely distinctive with a bright yellow colour and with large circular papillae. While the boring form is less obvious it can be distinguished with practice.

Black tar sponge— *Dercitus bucklandi*

Black encrusting sponge that appears like a black membrane pulled across the rock. Unlikely to be confused with any other species of sponge in Irish waters though may be confused with the elephant's hide sponge in photographs.





Crater sponge—
Hemimycale columella

Peach or pale orange sponge with a honeycomb like appearance which are the diagnostic feature for this species. Found in a variety of habitats on bedrock.



Purse sponge—
Scyon ciliatum

Small pale finger shaped sponge often found growing on seaweed or other sponges. While small specimens can be difficult to identify the hairy appearance and rounded structure distinguishes it from *Grantia compressa*.



Chocolate finger sponge-
Raspailia ramosa

Chocolate to dark brown sponge with many short branches. The surface is hispid (bristly) due to the presence of spicules that trap the silt. Can be confused with other *Raspailia* species however colour should allow for confident ID.