



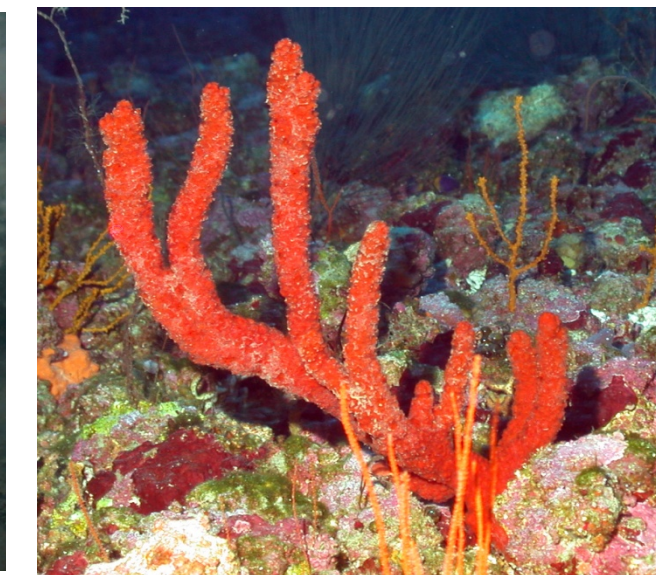
# SPONGES of Deepwater Communities in the Northwestern Gulf of Mexico

Developed by Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary

Emma L. Hickerson and G.P. Schmahl

Collaborators: Kyle Byers and Douglas C. Weaver (NOAA/FGBNMS), Lance Horn (NURC/UNCW), Klaus Ruetzler (Smithsonian Institute)

December, 2012



*Higginsia coralloides*

*Ptilocaulis* sp.



*Neopetrosia* sp.



*Neopetrosia* sp.



*Verongula reisi*



*Verongula reisi*



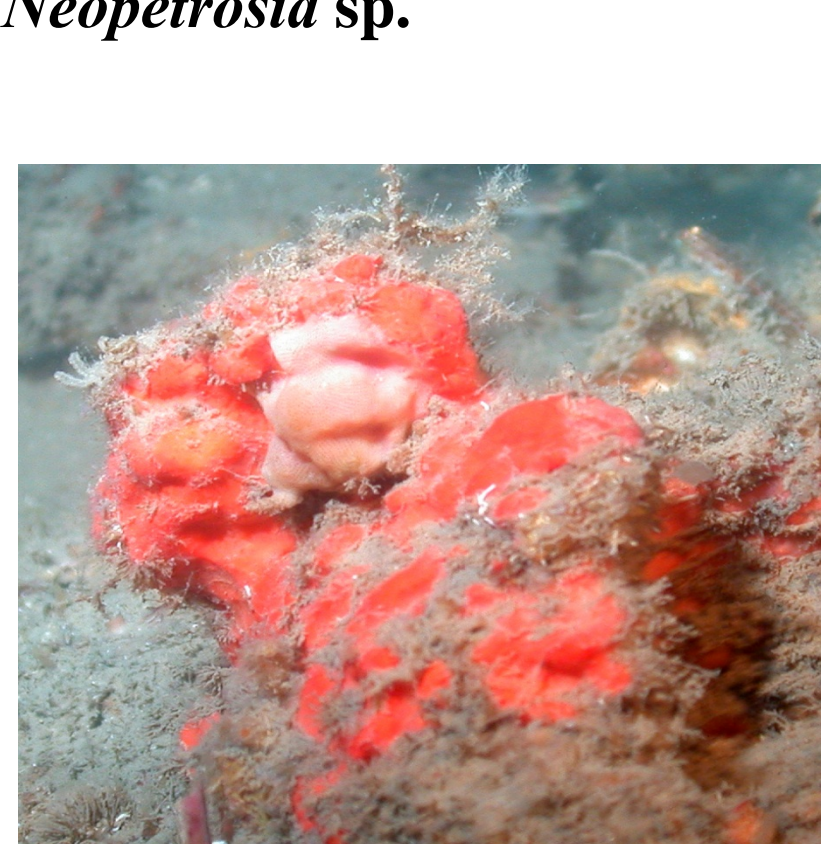
*Ectoplysia ferox*



*Neopetrosia* sp.



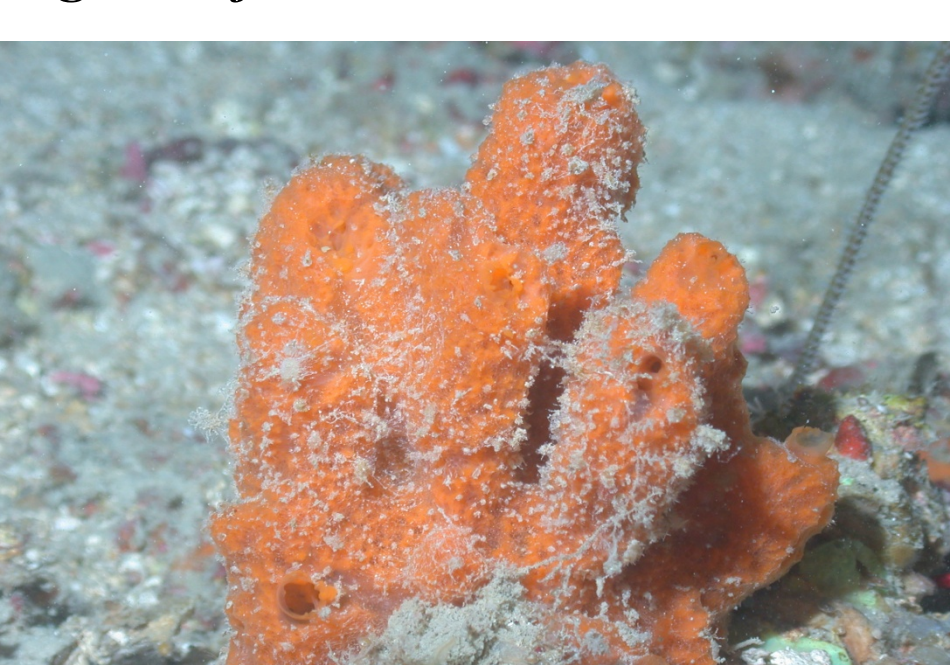
*Higginsia coralloides*



*Agelas* cf. *cebrum*



*Acanthella cubensis*



*Acanthella cubensis*



*Acanthella cubensis*



*Batzella rubra*



*Placosphaera antillensis*



*Placosphaera antillensis*



*Didiscus oxeata*



*Myrmekioderma gyroderma*



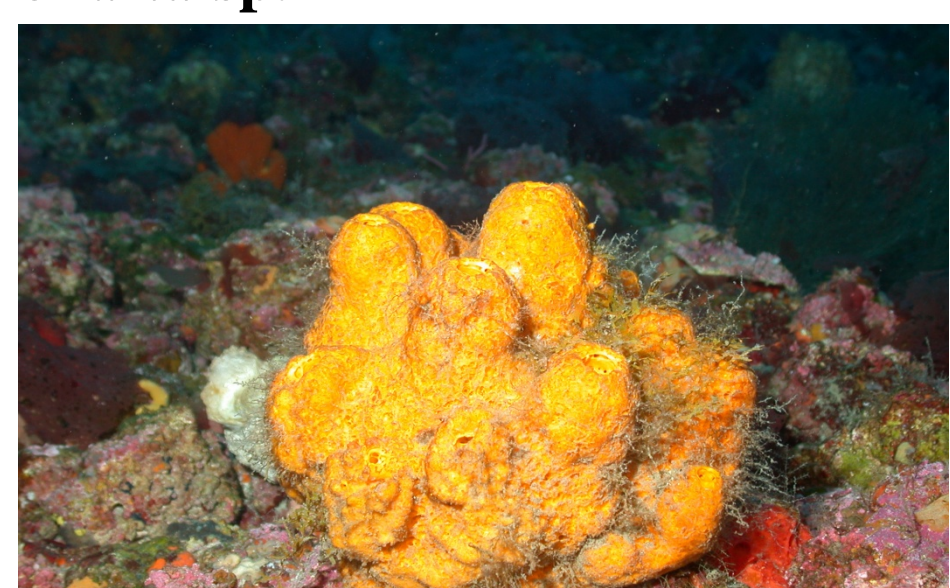
*Auleta sycularia*



*Halichondria* sp.



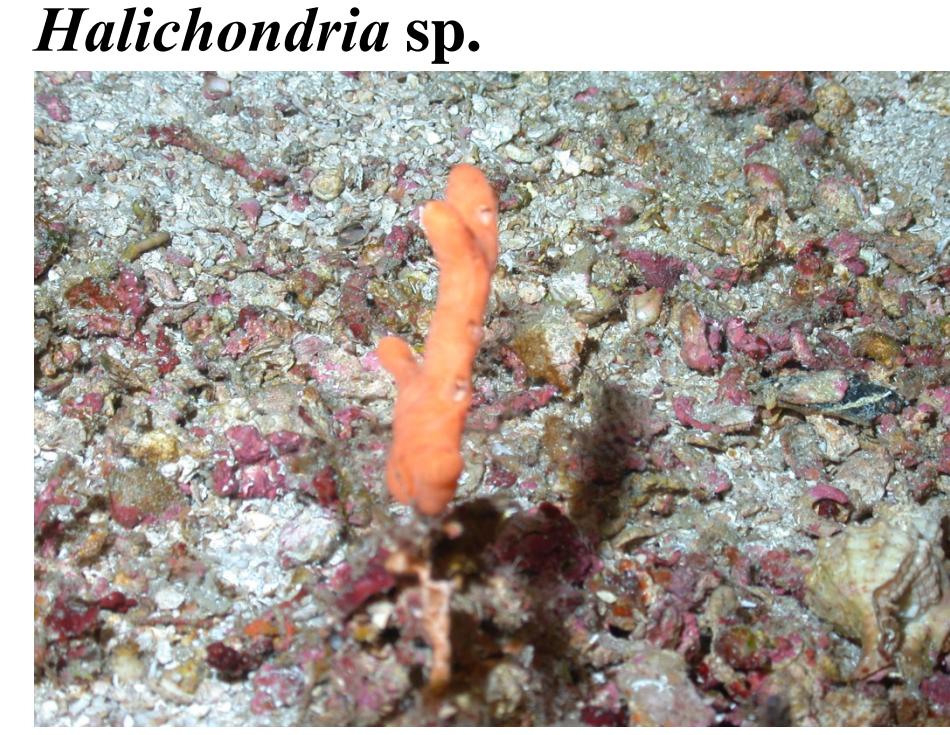
*Halichondria* sp.



*Halichondria* sp.



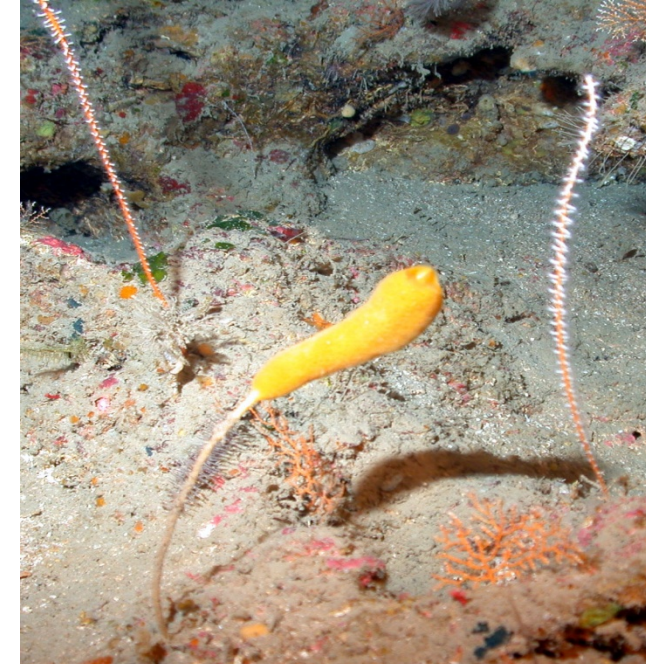
*Haliclona* sp.



Didemniidae ascidian



*Halichondria* sp.



*Rhizaxinella clava*



*Myrmekioderma gyroderma*



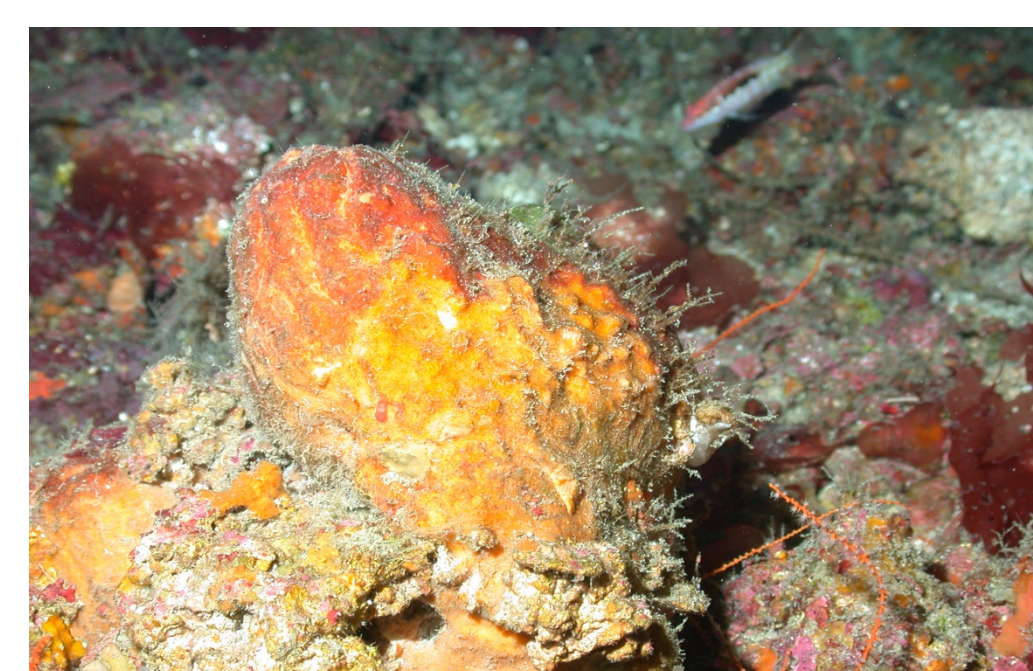
Dictyonellidae



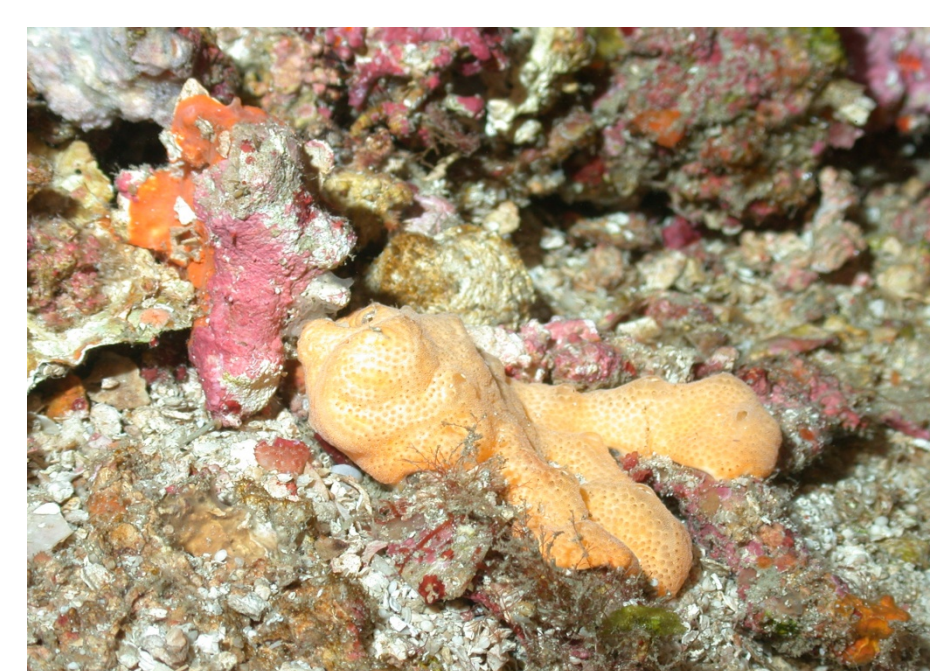
*Auleta sycularia*



*Smenospongia* sp.



*Myrmekioderma gyroderma*



Didemniidae ascidian



*Dysidea* sp.



*Smenospongia* sp.



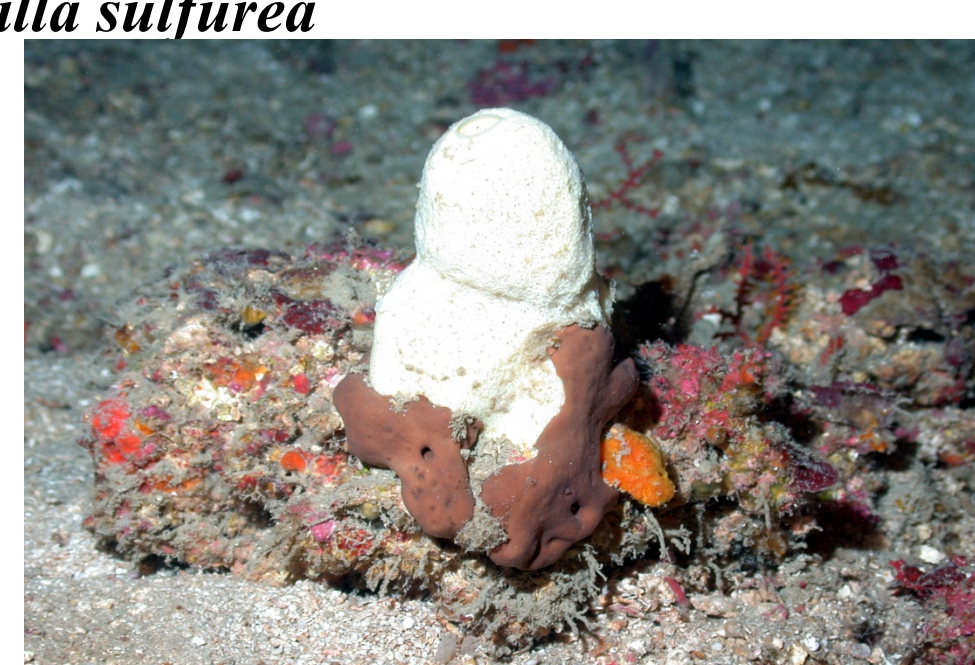
Axinellidae



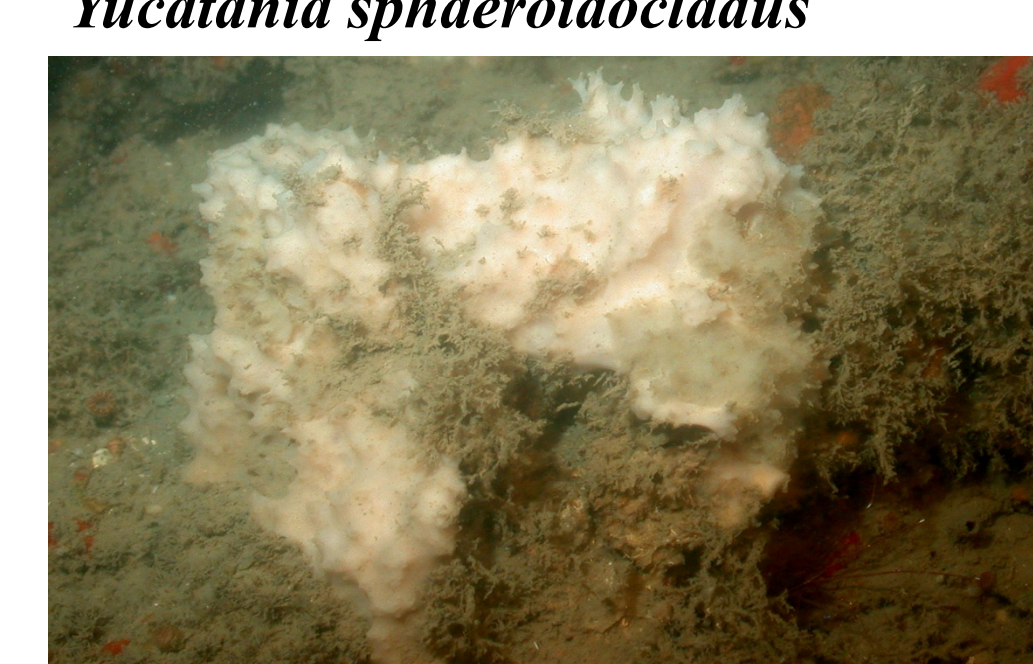
*Aplysilla sulfurea*



*Yucatania sphaeroidocladus*



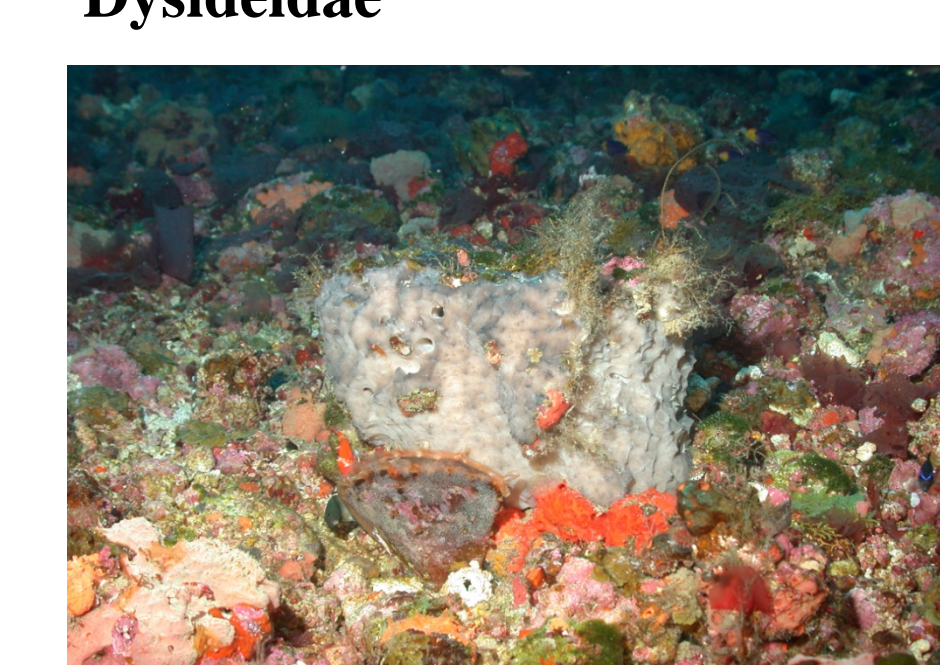
*Plakortis zygompha*



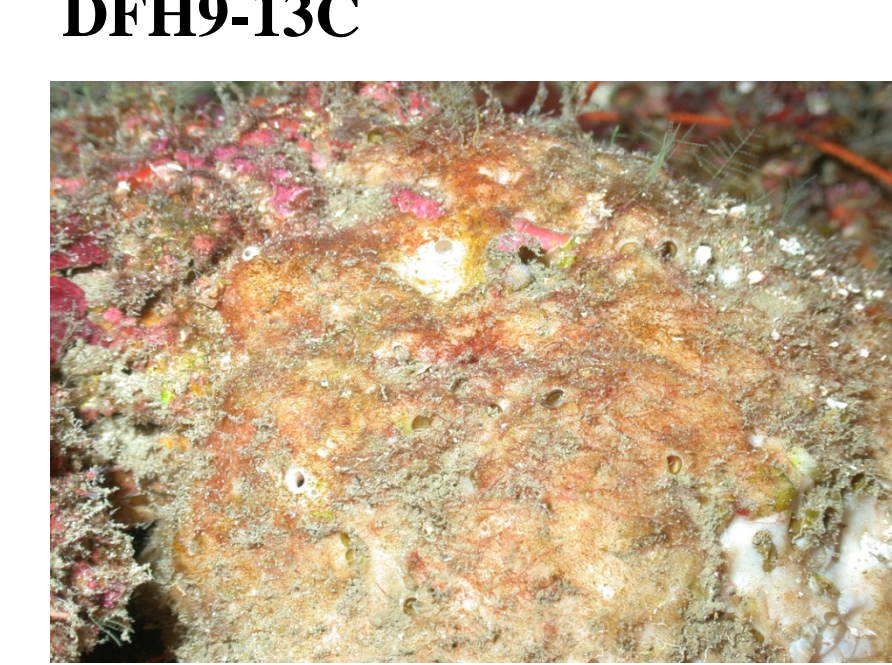
Dysideidae



DFH9-13C



*Erylus trisphaera*



*Yucatania sphaeroidocladus*



*Acornia* sp.



DFH9-13F



*Chondrosia* sp.



*Topsentia bahamensis*



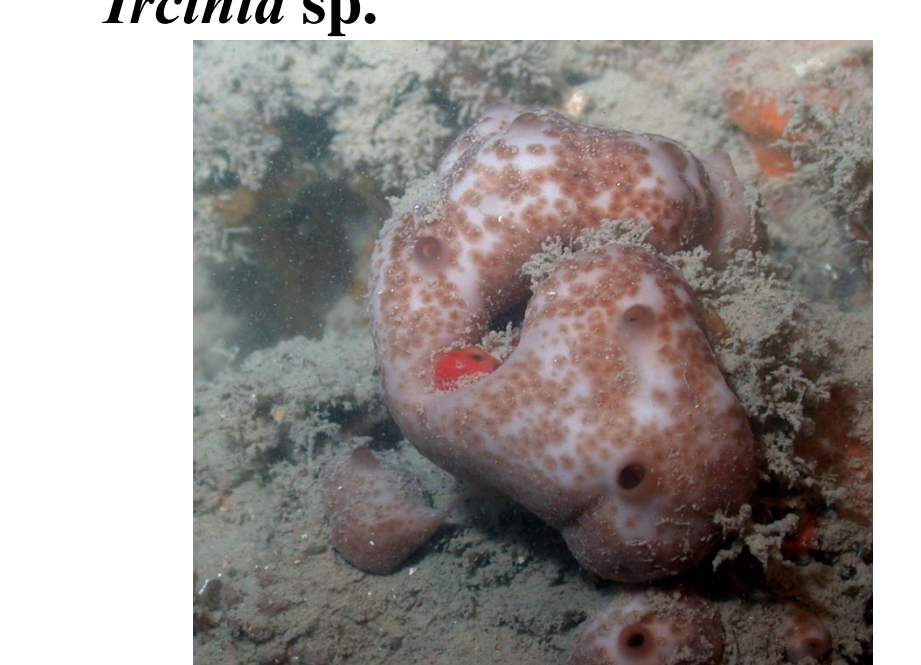
*Niphates erecta*



*Ircinia* sp.



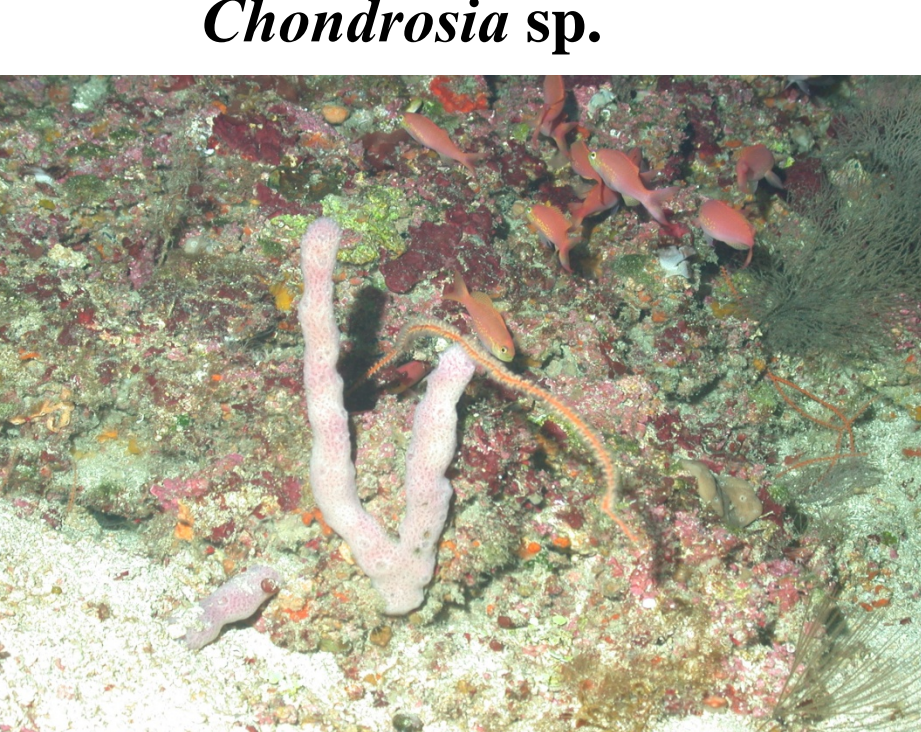
*Ircinia* sp.



*Chondrosia* sp.



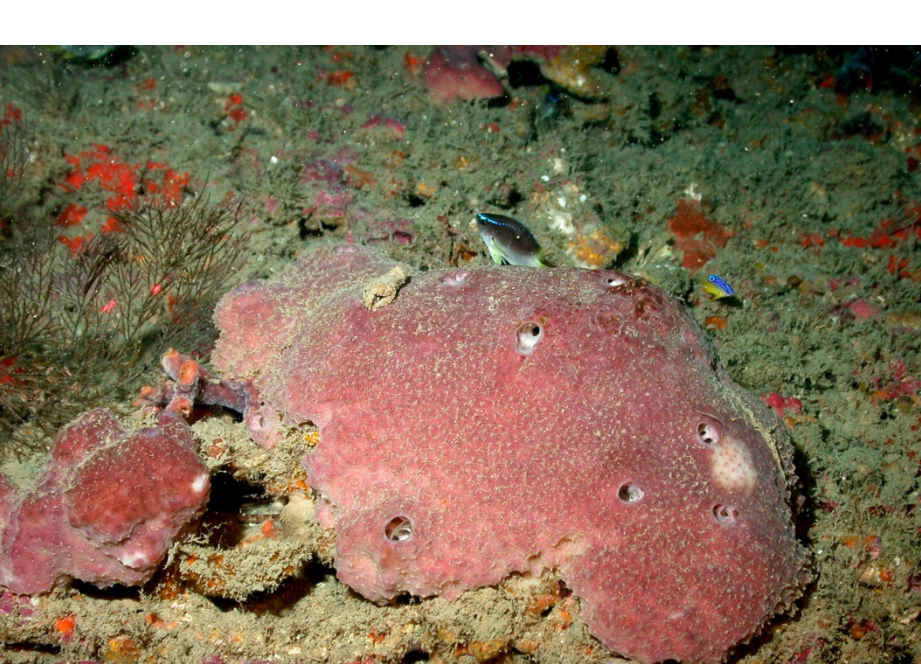
*Pleraplysilla* sp.



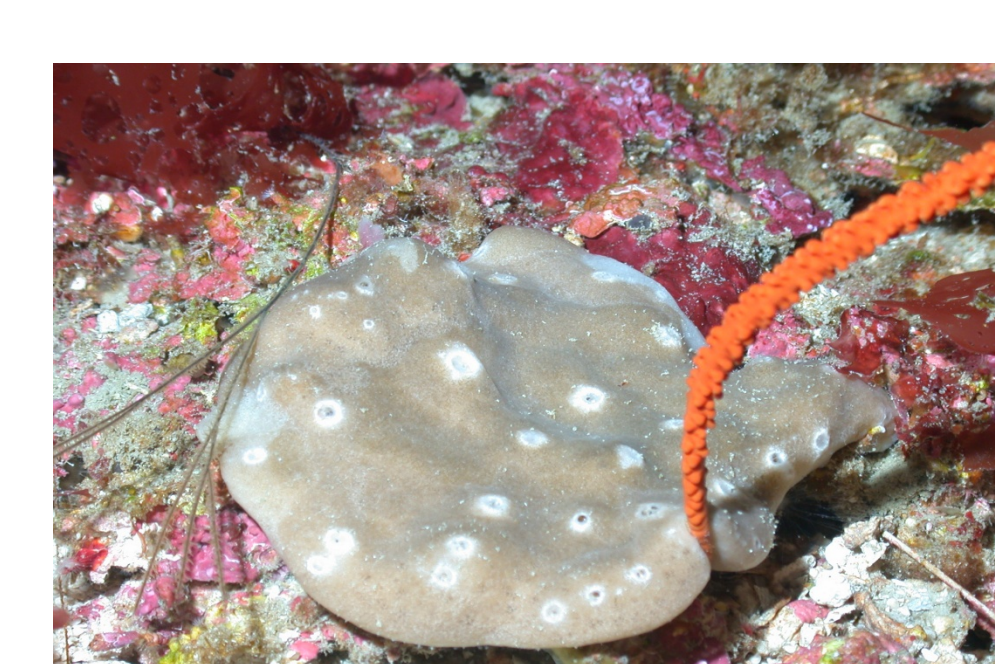
*Niphates erecta*



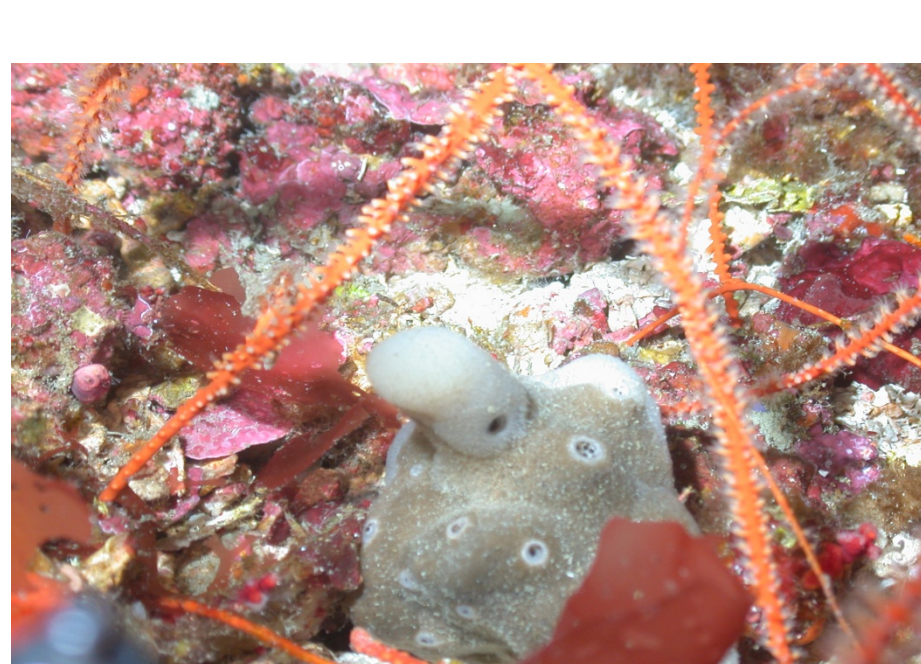
*Ircinia* sp.



*Ircinia* sp.



*Petrosia* sp.



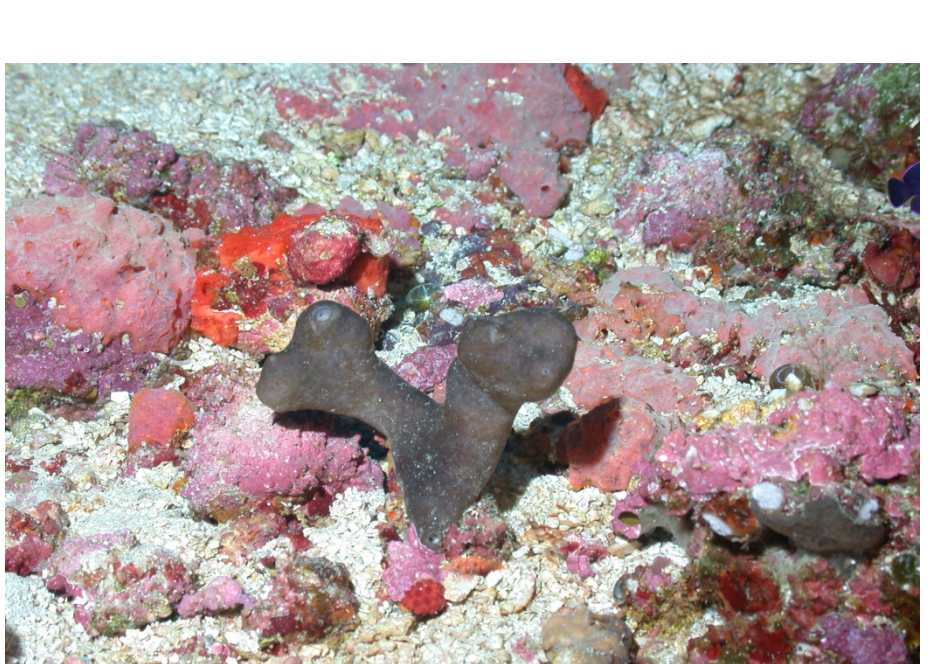
*Petrosia* sp.



*Erylus alleni*



*Erylus trisphaera*



*Erylus alleni*



*Corallistes typus*

The majority of these sponges were sampled at the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary by remotely operated vehicle at depths between 162 feet and 355 feet.