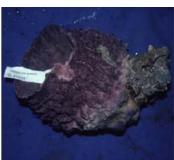
SPECIMENS: see next page









SP.NO.: 7

DEMOSPONGIAE: CERACTINOMORPHA: HAPLOSCLERIDA: PETROSIIDAE:

ID: Xestospongia testudinaria (Lamark, 1813)

GROWTH FORM: barrels, volcanoes, buttressed vases, macrobenthic fixed to the substrate

COLOUR: red brown, olive brown at top and on buttresses, beige below and between buttresses, sometimes darker or lighter depending on light conditions. May also be pinkish on top

OSCULES: large apical depression with oscules internally

TEXTURE: elastic, difficult to tear, robust, firm, springy, slightly compressible

SURFACE ORNAMENTATION: external buttresses and/or lateral projections, interior smooth, opaque, membraneous

ECTOSOMAL SKELETON: tangential layer of single spicules

CHOANOSOMAL SKELETON: large multispicular tracts forming isotropic reticulation, cored by oxeas – strongyloxeas; moderate spongin fibres, moderate quantities of collagen in mesohyl.

MEGASCLERES:

Oxeas sharp, rounded, or slightly telescoped points (250-350 x 5-20 µM)

MICROSCLERES: Nil

