

**2 Tean Sound** has a large variety of anemones in the sandy channel and amongst the eelgrass *Zostera marina* which forms thick, healthy beds. The red speckled pimplet anemone *Anthopleura ballii*, the daisy anemone *Cereus pedunculatus* and the snakelocks anemone *Anemonia viridis* were recorded as common together with an unusual colour form of the gem anemone *Aulactinia verrucosa* (right). The bryozoan *Turbicellepora magnicostata*, was an unusual find here (see back page).



**1 Hard Lewis Rocks/Juno wreck** was the first dive. Below a kelp park, vertical walls covered in jewel anemones *Corynactis viridis*, red fingers *Alcyonium glomeratum* (right) and white fingers *A. digitatum*, pink sea fans *Eunicella verrucosa*, various hydroids and sponges dropped from 13m to boulders and mixed ground at 25m. Ballan wrasse and goldsinny were recorded as frequent.



**12 Darrity's Hole** has a very silty boulder field with many sponges, cnidarians and ascidians. The sponge *Axinella damicornis* (right) and the volcano sponge *Haliclona viscosa* were both abundant. Jewel anemones were common, ginger tiny anemones frequent whilst pink sea fans, the pink sea squirt *Sydnium elegans*, lightbulb sea squirts *Clavelina lepadiformis* and a pipefish *Sygnathus acus* were all recorded.

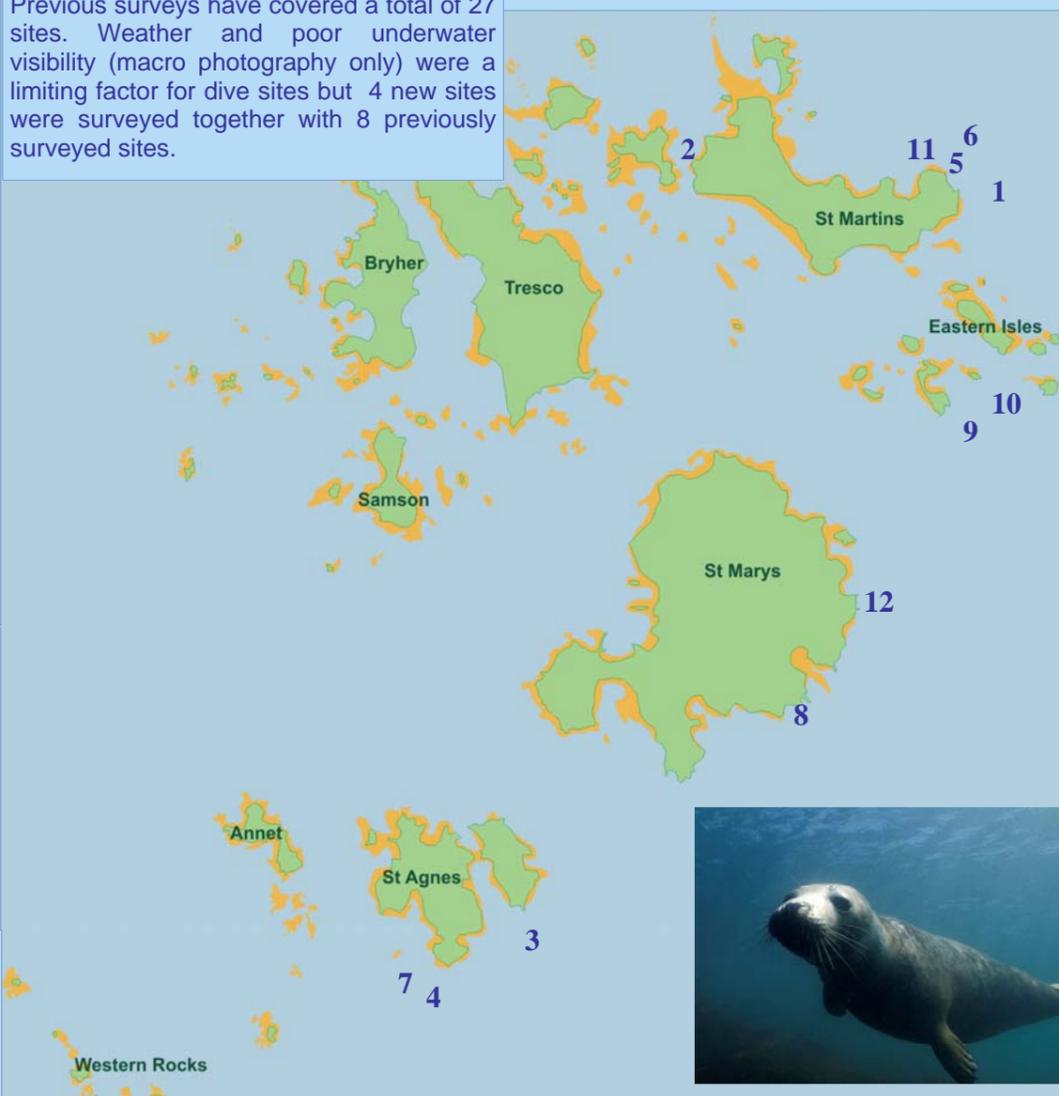


**3 West Hoe Point** is an area of vertical fissured rock faces and enormous boulders. The very rare red blenny *Parablennius ruber* was recorded in one of the fissures, usually a more southerly species. Common on the vertical faces were jewel anemones, Devon cup coral *Caryophyllia smithii*, white dead men's fingers, spiral bryozoans *Bugula sp.*, boring sponge

*Cliona celata* and crater sponge *Hemimycale columella*. The yellow staghorn sponge *Axinella dissimilis* (left) was common on the silt covered ledges and horizontal boulder tops together with the ginger tiny anemone *Isozoanthus sulcatus*.



Previous surveys have covered a total of 27 sites. Weather and poor underwater visibility (macro photography only) were a limiting factor for dive sites but 4 new sites were surveyed together with 8 previously surveyed sites.



**4 Wingletang Ledges** was a new and very interesting survey site chosen to confirm a record of the rare sunset cup coral *Leptopsammia pruvoti* (picture front cover). A new colony was confirmed under an overhang together with the southern cup coral *Caryophyllia inornata*, Devon cup coral and nearby red and white fingers, plumose anemones *Metridium senile* and white striped anemones *Actinothoe sphyrodeta*. Nine species of algae, 7 of hydroid and 4 of nudibranch were also recorded.

**5 Flat Ledges** is a steep sided, flat topped reef with wide vertical clefts and gullies and a series of silt covered flat ledges in steps from 20m downwards. Thirteen species of sponge were recorded including the tiny stalked sponge *Guancha lacunosa*, prawn cracker sponge *Axinella infundibuliformis* (right), chimney sponge *Polymastia penicillus* and hedgehog sponge *P. boletiformis*.



**6 Peter's Rock** is a similar site close by. A rich species list provided 67 species in total including 9 algae species, 14 sponge, 6 hydroid, 6 nudibranch (*Coryphella browni* photo on front page) and 10 bryozoa species. The sponge *Adreus fascicularis* was recorded here (photo back page).

**7 Plympton/Hathor** The lower lying Plympton wreckage had abundant healthy pink sea fans *Eunicella verrucosa*, including white ones. Sponge species included the slime sponge *Desmacidon fruticosum* (left). Large specimens of the football sea squirt *Diazona violacea* (right) were recorded on the boiler of the Hathor.



On the adjacent reef 9 bryozoa species were noted together with an orange coloured false cowrie *Simnia patula* on dead men's fingers.

**11 North Chapel Rock** is a rocky pinnacle extending from the kelp zone in 20m, steeply down with narrow ledges to boulders at 27m. The sponges *Adreus fascicularis*, *Axinella damicornis*, *Stelligera rigida*, sea orange *Suberites ficus*, prawn cracker sponge, hedgehog sponge and yellow staghorn sponge were among 14 species of sponge recorded, predominantly on the ledges. Sixteen bryozoa species included *Crisia eburnea*, *Bicellaria ciliata*, *Cellaria spp.* and potato crisp bryozoan as common and 3 species of spiral bryozoan as occasional. Nationally rare sea fan anemones *Amphianthus dohrnii* were recorded on one sea fan together with the sea fan nudibranch *Tritonia nilsodhneri* (right, with eggs). A total of 75 species were recorded at this new, very rich site.



**10 Menawethen** Despite the pleasant distraction of the playful seals 30 species were recorded at this annually visited site including the scarce scarlet and gold cup coral *Balanophyllia regia*.

**9 Ridge High Corner** was a new survey site. From 10m a flat topped reef with abundant golden kelp fell in a series of steep faces and silty ledges to a boulder slope at 32m. A total of 53 recorded species included Devon and southern cup corals, jewel and plumose anemones, whilst dead men's fingers dominated the steep areas. On the ledges 9 species of hydroid including both oaten pipe hydroids *Tubularia indivisa* and *T. larynx*, 5 species of bryozoa and 10 sponge species including *Leuconia johnstoni* were recorded.

**8 The Cita** is a relatively recent wreck but well colonised and 57 species were recorded. On the deck the south west species of golden kelp *Laminaria ochroleuca*, pink sea fans and the blue sponge *Terpios fugax* were found. Seven other sponge species were identified together with several unidentified encrusting ones. A white cluster anemone *Parazoanthus axinellae* (or *anguicomis*?) was recorded on the more sheltered side of the wreck.



**Newfoundland Point** is a high activity rocky reef with vertical walls, ledges and many large boulders forming surge gullies. Elegant anemones *Sagartia elegans* (above) were abundant with Devon cup coral and jewel anemones being recorded as super-abundant.

The table to the right shows numbers of species recorded in each group and some of the most widely distributed species. The table and this report have been prepared from a total of 5 Observer forms and 12 Surveyor forms.

**Sponges** were recorded at all sites except Tean Sound. The rare *Adreus fascicularis* (below) was recorded at Peter's Rock & North Chapel Rock, the slime sponge *Desmacidin fruticosum* on the Plympton wreck.



**Anemones, Corals and Hydroids** were commonly recorded at all sites. Pink sea fans *Eunicella verrucosa* were found at 8 whilst the rare sea fan anemone *Amphianthus dohrnii* was found at North Chapel Rock only. Four varieties of cup coral included scarlet and gold *Balanophyllia regia* at Menawethen and nationally rare sunset *Leptopsammia pruvoti* at Wingletang Ledges. Ginger tiny anemones *Isozoanthus sulcatus* occurred at 5 sites and Tubularia hydroids (below) at 8 sites.



**Crabs, Lobsters and Molluscs** were recorded in small numbers at most sites. Nudibranchs were frequently recorded but only one sea fan nudibranch *Tritonia nilsodhneri* was seen, at North Chapel Rock.

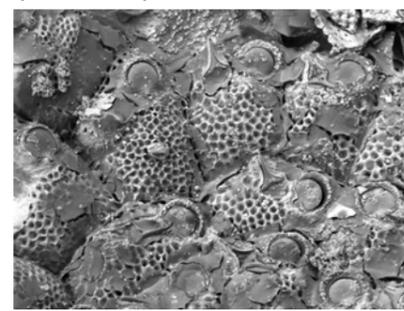
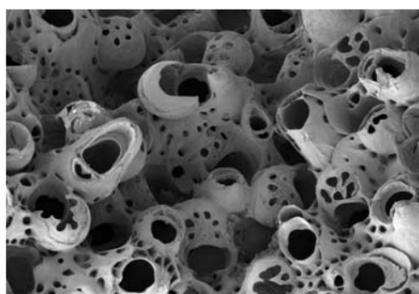
**Starfish, Sea urchins and Sea cucumbers** included cotton spinners *Holothuria forskali*, urchins *Echinus esculentus* and spiny starfish *Marthasterias glacialis* at most sites and featherstars *Antedon bifida* at 2 sites.

**Sea squirts** were not widely recorded on this trip but the football squirt *Diazona violacea* was found at 2 sites.

This Seasearch survey was organised as part of the Marine Conservation Society's Member's Dives Programme. Surveyors and recorders were: Vicki Billings, Pam Bowden, Vicky Cartwright, David McLaren, Jo Porter, Martin Pratt, Nick Reed, Sally Sharrock, Eryn Smyth and Scott Tompsett. We would like to thank Tim Allsop, of St Martin's Diving Services for an excellent week of diving. Text and photographs by Sally Sharrock and Scott Tompsett.

Phylum	Common name	Number of species	Common species	
Porifera	Sponges	30	Boring sponge Yellow staghorn sponge	<i>Cliona celata</i> <i>Axinella dissimilis</i>
Cnidaria	Anemones, corals, hydroids	38	Sea beard Dead men's fingers Red fingers Plumose anemone Elegant anemone Jewel anemone Devonshire cup coral Pink sea fan	<i>Nemertesia</i> spp <i>Alcyonium digitatum</i> <i>Alcyonium glomeratum</i> <i>Metridium senile</i> <i>Sagartia elegans</i> <i>Corynactis viridis</i> <i>Caryophyllia smithii</i> <i>Eunicella verrucosa</i>
Annelida	Segmented worms	4		
Crustacea	Crabs, lobsters, barnacles	5	Edible crab Velvet swimming crab	<i>Cancer pagurus</i> <i>Necora puber</i>
Mollusca	Shells, sea slugs	14	Nudibranch Nudibranch	<i>Coryphella browni</i> <i>Polycera faeroensis</i>
Bryozoa	Sea mats	41	Potato crisp bryozoan Sea mat  Spiral bryozoan	<i>Pentapora foliacea</i> <i>Membranipora membranacea</i> <i>Bugula</i> spp.
Echinodermata	Starfish, sea urchins, sea cucumbers	11	Common urchin Cotton spinner Spiny starfish	<i>Echinus esculentus</i> <i>Holothuria forskali</i> <i>Marthasterias glacialis</i>
Tunicata	Sea squirts	11	Lightbulb sea squirt	<i>Clavelina lepadiformis</i>
Pisces	Fish	15	Ballan wrasse Cuckoo wrasse Goldsinny	<i>Labrus bergylta</i> <i>Labrus mixtus</i> <i>Ctenolabrus rupestris</i>
Mammalia	Mammals	1	Grey seal	<i>Halichoerus grypus</i>
Algae	Seaweeds	18	Cuvie Sea beech Pink encrusting	<i>Laminaria hyperborea</i> <i>Delessaria sanguinea</i>
Angiospermae	Eelgrass	1	Eelgrass	<i>Zostera marina</i>

**Bryozoans** were of special interest to two divers from Aberystwyth University. Samples were collected for identification and microscopic examination and the local bryozoan fauna proved especially rich, two species being of particular interest. Both are normally found in the Mediterranean, with their only recorded UK location as the Isles of Scilly. *Turbicellepora magnicostata* (electron microscope image right) forms bright orange lumps and was abundant on algae in Tean sound. *Schizoporella dunkeri* (below), again bright orange, encrusted small rocks at Hard Lewis Rocks and North Chapel Rocks. It will be interesting to see if either species are present on other south-western sites.



**Fish** included ballan, cuckoo and goldsinny wrasse at most sites, the rare and usually more southerly species of red blenny *Parablennius ruber* at West Hoe Point and a more northerly species, the lumpsucker *Cyclopterus lumpus* at Wingletang Ledges. **Seaweeds** were recorded at all sites. The south-western kelp species *Laminaria ochroleuca* being found at 4 sites. **Eelgrass** *Zostera marina* was recorded at just one site, Tean Sound.



## Isles of Scilly Survey May 2007 Summary Report



Jewel anemones with spiky lace sponge



Sunset cup coral



Spiral bryozoan



Dive boat Morvoren



Nudibranch on potato crisp bryozoan