



# Article

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## The identity of *Sertularia reptans* Linnaeus, 1758 (Bryozoa, Candidae)

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### Abstract

This paper includes a reassessment of *Scrupocellaria reptans* (Linnaeus, 1758) (basonym *Sertularia reptans*), the lectotype of which is selected and figured from among herbarium-sheet specimens held at the Linnean Society of London. Material previously assigned to *S. reptans* was examined, providing morphological characteristics to distinguish *Scrupocellaria ellisi* n. sp. *Scrupocellaria reptans* has a geographically limited distribution in the United Kingdom, while *S. ellisi* is more widespread in the North Sea, Northeast Atlantic, Adriatic and Tasmania.

**Key words:** bryozoans, lectotype, redescription, taxonomy, *Scrupocellaria*, new species

### Introduction

*Scrupocellaria reptans* (Bryozoa) was introduced, without illustration, by Carl Linnaeus (1758). The sole geographic/habitat information accompanying the species description (basonym *Sertularia reptans*) was “in Oceano” but it has been recorded from numerous localities around the British coast (e.g. Ellis & Solander 1786; Johnston 1847; Busk 1852; Hincks 1880; Hayward 1971; Hayward & Ryland 1998), in the North Sea (e.g. Smitt 1867; Marcus 1940; de Blauwe 2009), off Madeira (Norman 1909) and in the Mediterranean (e.g. Waters 1879; Prenant & Bobin 1966; Zabala 1986; Zabala & Maluquer 1988). The species has been considered common and well-known around Britain, although some morphological variations have been described in different populations (e.g. Gautier 1962; Prenant & Bobin 1966; Zabala & Maluquer 1988; Hayward & Ryland 1998). At the same time, Zabala & Maluquer (1988) noted that at least one different species was previously misidentified as *S. reptans* in Mediterranean waters. Despite some recent descriptions and illustrations of *S. reptans*, the type specimen described by Linnaeus (1758) has apparently never been described or figured.

Some species of *Scrupocellaria* have been treated as widespread in tropical to subtropical waters (Tilbrook 2006; Tilbrook & Vieira 2012). Recent studies, however, on widespread bryozoan species using SEM techniques, have helped to clarify their taxonomic status as well as redefine the characters for species differentiation (Berning & Kuklinski 2008). In addition, studies on geographic and morphological variation in cheilostome bryozoans have revealed a higher diversity than previously recorded by earlier authors (Berning *et al.* 2008; Vieira *et al.* 2010, 2012). In the present study we give a complete redescription of Linnaeus’s material of *S. reptans* to clarify and stabilize its identity; we also describe a new and closely related species, *Scrupocellaria ellisi* n. sp.

### Material and Methods

The syntype specimens described by Linnaeus and letters relating to his collections are held at the Linnean Society of London (LSL). The specimens examined here were photographed under a Zeiss Discovery V20 stereomicroscope with AxioCam HRc at the Natural History Museum, London (NHMUK). Additional comparative material has been deposited at the NHMUK and Muséum national d’Histoire naturelle, Paris