

Orange Puffball Sponge

Tethya aurantia

Description: The puffball sponge is spherical, with a flat bottom and a rough outer surface that's orange in color. The body surface contains many tiny pores called ostia, where water carrying oxygen and small food particles enter the sponge. The water and waste exit the sponge through one or more much larger openings called oscula.



Defense: Sponges produce potent chemicals to defend themselves against other animals that try to attack them. These chemicals don't harm the sponges and have the same properties of anti-bacterial and anti-cancerous drugs that don't kill healthy cells.

Feeding: Puffball sponges eat bacteria, tiny particles and dissolved organic matter.



WOW!! A sponge's body is a collection of loosely connected cells. It has no organs and no tissues. These are the only animals that if broken into cells can put themselves back together again.