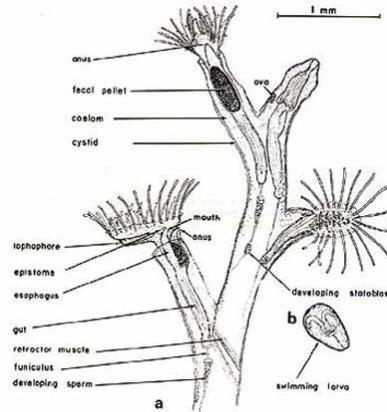


Bryozoans are native to Wisconsin. Bryozoans are colony-forming animals. Many millions of individuals can form one colony. The colonies range from millimeters to meters in size, but the individuals that make up the colonies are tiny, usually less than a millimeter long. What seems to be an individual is actually a colony of zooids. Each zooid has whorls of delicate feeding tentacles swaying slowly in the water catching food.

The following anatomical description is from Wood (1989):



One of the common species forms a colony that is gelatinous, firm and slimy to the touch. The inner gelatinous mass is 99% water. The surface appears divided into rosettes, each with 12-18 zooids. Massive colonies may exceed 2 feet (60 cm) in diameter, although more typical sizes are 1 foot or less. The colonies form on submerged logs, twigs, even wooden docks.

Other species have colonies that are clear, gelatinous and without lobes or branches. Underwater they are white and typically 2-3 inches long and 1 inch wide. They sometimes resemble giant fuzzy caterpillars. These colonies occur on aquatic vegetation as well as the undersides of rocks in deeper waters.

#### References:

Wood, T. S. 1989. Ectoproct bryozoans of Ohio. Ohio Biol. Surv. Bull. New Series, Vol. 8, no. 2.

Smith, D. G. 1985. *Lophopodella carteri* (Hyatt), *Pottsiella erecta* (Potts), and other freshwater ectoprocta in the Connecticut River (New England, U.S.A.). Ohio J. Sci 85:67-70.

Smith, D. G. 1992. A new freshwater moss animal in the genus *Plumatella* (Ectoprocta: Phylactolaemata: Plumatellidae) from New England (U.S.A.). Can J. Zool. 70:2192-2201.