# *Ctenoide scaber* (Flame Scallop)

Order: Limoida (File Shell Clams)
Class: Bivalvia (Clams, Oysters and Mussels)
Phylum: Mollusca (Molluscs)

**Fig. 1.** Flame scallop, *Ctenoide scaber*.

[http://www.njreefers.org/threads/fire-scallop.63918/ downloaded 20 October 2016]

**TRAITS.** The flame scallop has a hard white shell and numerous red tentacles protruding from its opening (Fig. 1). The flame scallop is sometimes also called the file shell clam due to the presence of fine bumps on its shell giving it a file-like texture (Liveaquaria, 2016). The flame scallop *Ctenoide scaber* was previously known as *Lima scabra*, and grows to a maximum size of about 10cm (Aquariumdomain, 2016).

**DESTRIBUTION.** Flame scallops are native to the Caribbean Sea, and are found at many coral reefs, e.g. the Buccoo Reef in Tobago in and many other islands.

**HABITAT AND ECOLOGY.** They are abundant in undisturbed areas with small rocks and pieces of coral. These organisms are herbivores classified as filter feeders on phytoplankton. Flame scallops serve as prey to crabs, sea stars and shrimps (Wikipedia, 2016). Flame scallops are not poisonous, therefore, they escape their predators by closing their valves (Fig. 2), or they sometimes

releasing a spurt of water, which together with the tentacles causes it to move freely in the water. The flame scallop does this until a dark stony area is found (Aquariumdomain, 2016).

**REPRODUCTION.** Flame scallops reproduce sexually through a process called spawning. By discharging sperm and eggs into the water, an egg is then fertilised. Reproduction can occur during any time of the year, but mostly at the end of summer when the temperature of the water is at its highest (Dukeman et al., 2005). The flame scallop undergoes trochophore and veliger larva stages, until it settles as a juvenile (Fig. 3) (Beiler and Mickelson, 2004).

**REFERENCES**

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**Fig. 2.** A flame scallop with its valves closing.

[http://www.aquariumcreationsonline.net/scallops.html , downloaded 23 October 2016]

**Fig. 3.** Juvenile flame scallop.

[ http://www.projectnoah.org/spottings/17207065/fullscreen, downloaded 23 October 2016]