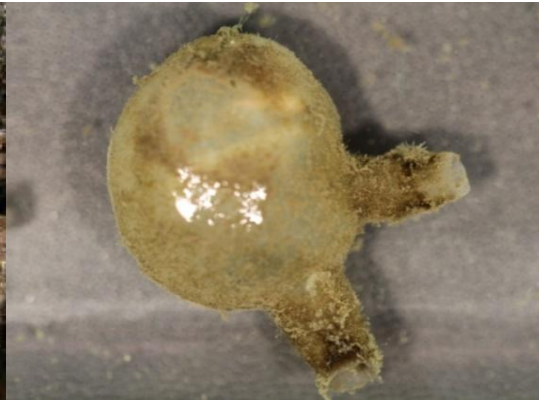


## Tunicate (solitary) - *Molgula manhattensis*

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>DESCRIPTION</b>     | grape-like tunicate, sometimes laterally flattened, with 6 lobes on the oral (incurrent) siphon, thick tunic, often with some papillae (hair-like projections). Larvae with a tail   |
| <b>RANGE</b>           | Mexico to British Columbia; First recorded on the west coast in Tamales Bay, CA in 1949, it's introduced around the world. Native to the Atlantic coast of North America   |
| <b>SIZE</b>            | Body length to 1-5 cm.   |
| <b>STATUS</b>          | Invasive   |
| <b>COLOR</b>           | Clear, grey with a 'u' shaped intestine sometimes visible through the body wall, oriented vertically, body often sediment covered.   |
| <b>HABITAT</b>         | Attaches to firm substrates, such as rocks, boulder, shell and cobble as well as man-made structures. Can be found on sands as well. Tolerates pollution.  |
| <b>TIDAL HEIGHT</b>    | Low intertidal, but generally subtidal to 90 meters depth.   |
| <b>SALINITY</b>        | 5-40 ppt: estuarine to marine  |
| <b>TEMPERATURE</b>     | tolerates a broad temperature range  |
| <b>SIMILAR SPECIES</b> | Unlike <i>Ascidia</i> which is attached on its side, it is attached at its base. To identify <i>M. manhattensis</i> from other Molgulids can be difficult: look for the u shaped gut (see pictures), tadpole larvae (unlike <i>M. citrina</i> ) and 6 branchial folds (requires dissection) as opposed to the 7 found in <i>M. retortiformis</i> , <i>M. pacifica</i> and <i>M. citrina</i> . Siphons are long and similar in length (unlike <i>M. retortiformis</i> and <i>M. pacifica</i> ). Larvae are not brooded. |



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