

Tunicate (Solitary) - *Styela clava*

DESCRIPTION This solitary tunicate has a leathery, bumpy and creased tunic. Its body is cylindrical or club-shaped narrowing to a stalk that is anchored to the substrate by a disk shaped holdfast. The wrinkled stalk is often 20-50% of the total body length.

RANGE	It is native to China, Japan and Korea and introduced to both coasts of North America and to Europe, Australia and New Zealand. It was first reported on the west coast in 1933 in Newport, Oregon and can now be found from British Columbia to Southern California.
SIZE	Body usually 8-12 cm. long, but up to 20 cm. Stalk about 1/3 total length
STATUS	Invasive; see the complete record at http://invasions.si.edu/nemesis/browseDB/SpeciesSummary.jsp?TSN=159337
COLOR	Colors can range from yellowish to reddish to brownish. Sometimes they are yellow white stripes on the siphons. The juveniles often pale orange.
HABITAT	Found in protected harbors and marinas growing on docks, boat hulls, buoys, ropes, pilings, but it also grows on natural substrates such as rocks and shell.
TIDAL HEIGHT	Low intertidal to shallow subtidal
SALINITY	18-35 ppt. Found in marine and estuarine habitats.
TEMPERATURE	11-27°C, found to -2 °C but need at least 15 °C to reproduce
SIMILAR SPECIES	<i>Styela truncata</i> (pictured below top left) and <i>Styela gibbsii</i> (native, bottom left photo) may have stripes on the siphons, but they are not stalked. The most similar species, <i>Styela montereyensis</i> is longer (up to 30 cm), with a longer stalk relative to the body size, distinctive stripes the entire length of the body, the oral siphon opens laterally rather than upward, and the tunic is smooth rather than wrinkled. The latter grows in high energy areas



Styela truncata ©Stachowitz lab UC Davis

Styela clava © Janna Nichols



Styela gibbsii ©Janna Nichols

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