NATIVE TUNICATES

Tunicate (solitary) - Styela yakutatensis

DESCRIPTION	Solitary tunicate, cylindrical body tapering rather abruptly to a stalk that is usually
	shorter than the body. Yellow-brown with prominent longitudinal wrinkles. Red
	siphons, one straight, one curved in a semicircle at the anterior end. Internally
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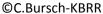
there are 2 elongate gonads per side. This species broods its embyos; during the breeding season (summer) there is usually a large group of developing embyos including hatched tadpoles i the atrial chambber.

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RANGE	Katchemak Bay, Alaska to Vancouver Island, Canada.
SIZE	Up to 7 cm
STATUS	Native
COLOR	Reddish near siphons, body yellow-orangish, stalk darker to brown.
HABITAT	Hangs from rocks by a distinct stalk in rocky habitats on exposed shores
TIDAL HEIGHT	Low intertidal to 30 m
SALINITY	15.2 to 33.3 ppt. (Homer & Seldovia harbor range)
TEMPEDATURE	non 2.2 to 44.08 C (Homer 9. Coldevia borber repres)

TEMPERATURE neg 2.3 to 14.9° C (Homer & Seldovia harbor range) **SIMILAR SPECIES** Styela montereyensis has a slender stalk as long or

Styela montereyensis has a slender stalk as long or longer than the body, 2 elongate slender gonnads/side, and does not brood its embryos. (However, S. yakutatensis can also have stalk as long as body, see left photo). Styela clava has warty tubercles at upper part of body, internally 5-7 elongated gonads/side, and is not a brooder. It is an introduced species that could come to Alaska, (It is currently found as far north as BC, Canada).







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