

## Tunicate (solitary) - *Ascidia callosa*

<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	This solitary tunicate is soft, hairless, ~1-2 mm thick and easily torn. Its body is wider than it is tall with a somewhat flattened appearance. The tunic margins are rounded and in old individuals looks wrinkled. Since this animal is lying mostly on its left side, the oral siphon is at the extreme anterior end of body, the atrial siphon is close to it but slightly posterior. Both siphons 6 lobed.
<b>RANGE</b>	Circumboreal in northern seas. In North America it's found from Alaska to Puget Sound, Washington. In Alaska it is found in Homer, Cordova, and Chenega.
<b>SIZE</b>	Body length up to 5 cm. ~3 cm in diameter.
<b>STATUS</b>	Native
<b>COLOR</b>	Clear, white to orange. More transparent when young.
<b>HABITAT</b>	Attaches to firm substrates, rocks in the intertidal and floats and ropes in harbors.
<b>TIDAL HEIGHT</b>	Low intertidal and sub-tidal to 146 m.
<b>SALINITY</b>	15.2 to 33.3 ppt. (Homer & Seldovia Harbor range)
<b>TEMPERATURE</b>	-2.3 to 14.9 °C (Homer and Seldovia Harbor range)
<b>SIMILAR SPECIES</b>	It can be distinguished from <i>Ascidia columbiana</i> by the lack of a dense circle of papillae around the siphons. Rather, its siphons look a bit like those of <i>Cnemidocarpa finmarkiensis</i> , in that they cramp up when shut and have smooth edges. Also, the edges of its tunic are rounded and may roll up whereas the tunic of <i>A. columbiana</i> is wide and sheet-like at the base. It is a brooder, releasing tadpoled larvae, while <i>A. columbiana</i> is not a brooder. Locally it could be confused with <i>Molgula</i> but is flatter and attached on it's side.



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