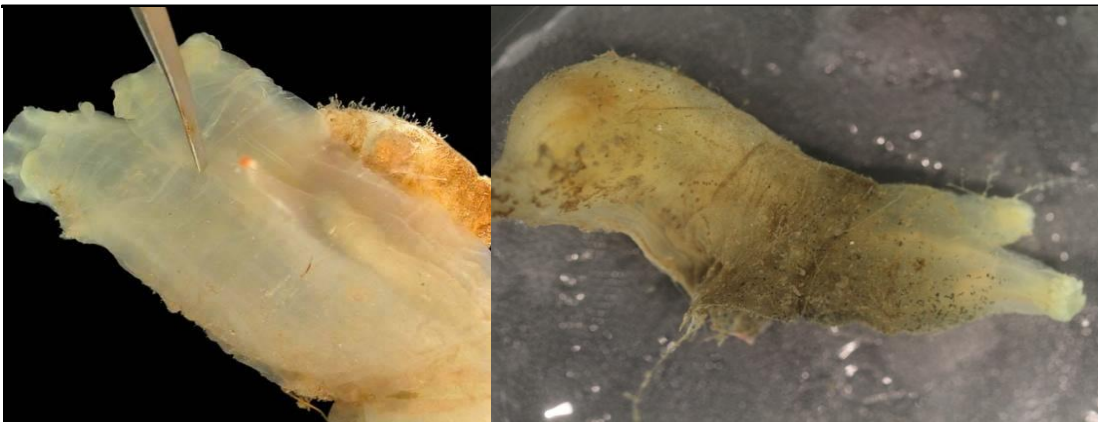


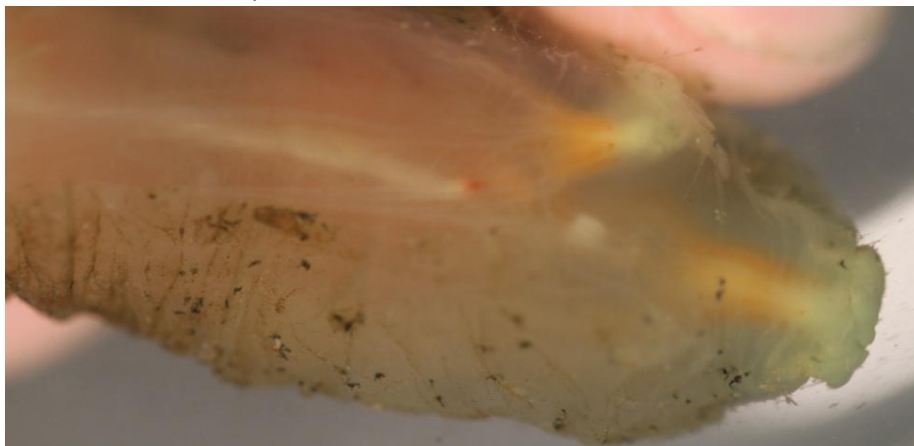
## Tunicate (Solitary) - *Ciona intestinalis*

<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	This solitary tunicate is long and transparent with orange to red dots on the scalloped edges of the siphons. The body is easily torn. They can form large groups.
<b>RANGE</b>	Puget Sound, Washington to San Diego, California. Native to the Atlantic and the Mediterranean. They were first reported on the west coast in San Diego in 1897.
<b>SIZE</b>	to 15 cm.
<b>STATUS</b>	Invasive (find the complete record at <a href="http://invasions.si.edu/nemesis/index.html">http://invasions.si.edu/nemesis/index.html</a> )
<b>COLOR</b>	Body yellowish, often transparent, with orange dots on the top edges of the siphon
<b>HABITAT</b>	They are found in protected harbors and marinas growing on docks, boat hulls, buoys, ropes, pilings, but also on natural substrates such as rocks, shells and boulders.
<b>TIDAL HEIGHT</b>	Subtidal, but sometimes in low intertidal
<b>SALINITY</b>	11-50 ppt. Highly tolerant species that can reproduce up to 40 ppt
<b>TEMPERATURE</b>	cold temperate to tropical, 10-30°C, but can withstand temperatures as cold as -1°C for months at a time
<b>SIMILAR SPECIES</b>	<i>Ciona savignyi</i> has a more fragile tunic than <i>C. intestinalis</i> with much brighter yellow markings on the siphon edges and a white rather than a red dot on the vas deferens (upper left photo).



©California Academy of Science Red dot on vas deferens.

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