

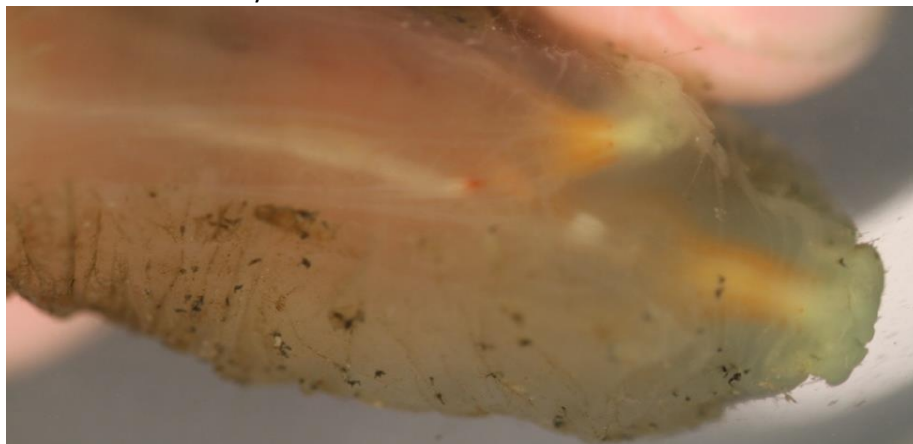
## Tunicate (Solitary) - *Ciona robusta* formerly *intestinalis*

<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 on the west coast and globally in ports and harbors. Native to Japan and the NW Pacific. First reported on the west coast (as <i>C. intestinalis</i> ) 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. robusta</i> with much brighter yellow markings on the siphon edges (rather than orange) and a white rather than a red dot on the vas deferens (upper left photo).



©California Academy of Science Red dot on vas deferens.

© Melissa Frey



© Melissa Frey