

Tunicate (colonial) - *Metandrocarpa talyori*

DESCRIPTION A colonial species with small globular bright orange or red zooids. Siphons are short and anterior. Colonies may be up to 20cm in size, zooids are usually densely packed. This tunicate is considered "social" because the individual zooids are connected by stolons (runners) but are not embedded in a common sheet of tunic. Asexual reproduction occurs by "budding" - from the stolons; sexual reproduction also occurs.

RANGE	NE Pacific from Alaska to California
SIZE	Individual zooids up to 6mm across and 5 mm tall
STATUS	Native
COLOR	Most commonly bright orange or red. Yellow or green morphs also occur.
HABITAT	Rocky. Seen on high current, high energy beaches in Kachemak Bay, Alaska.
TIDAL HEIGHT	Intertidal to about 20 m subtidal
SALINITY	15.2 to 33.3 ppt. (Homer & Seldovia harbor range)
TEMPERATURE	neg 2.3 to 14.9° C (Homer & Seldovia harbor range)
SIMILAR SPECIES	<i>Metandrocarpa dura</i> has similar small red zooids all embedded in a common tunic. <i>Chemidocarpa finmarkiensis</i> is a solitary, bright red species that is much larger, with siphons further apart.



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