

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 there are 2 elongate gonads per side. This species broods its embryos; during the breeding season (summer) there is usually a large group of developing embryos including hatched tadpoles in the atrial chamber.

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)
TEMPERATURE	neg 2.3 to 14.9° C (Homer & Seldovia harbor range)

SIMILAR SPECIES *Styela montereyensis* has a slender stalk as long or longer than the body, 2 elongate slender gonads/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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