

Tunicate (colonial) - *Aplidium coei*

DESCRIPTION	Colonial tunicate with 1-4 enlarged lobes arising from a common base. The top of lobes are gathered looking, with the zooids columnar like <i>Distaplia</i> .
RANGE	Alaska: Ritter described and collected them on Kodiak Island during the Harriman expedition (Ritter, 1901). Gretchen Lambert identified them again in Kodiak in 2001 and reported that they were fairly common in the low rocky intertidal. They were also seen in Kachemak Bay in low rocky intertidal and in Scow Bay, near Sitka.
SIZE	Lobes to 5.5 cm tall. Colonies photographed ~ 15 cm wide or less.
STATUS	Native
COLOR	Bright yellow or orange.
HABITAT	Sand and rock, on the latter sometimes under dense kelp cover.
TIDAL HEIGHT	Low intertidal and subtidal.
SALINITY	15.2 to 33.3 ppt. (Homer & Seldovia Harbor range)
TEMPERATURE	-2.3 to 14.9 °C (Homer and Seldovia Harbor range)
SIMILAR SPECIES	Can be confused with <i>Distaplia</i> spp which do not have a puckered top to the lobes. There are many <i>Aplidium</i> and <i>Synoicum</i> spp. As well as other compound tunicates in the Pacific Northwest that can be difficult to tell apart without a microscope.



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Photos 1-3 from Kachemak Bay