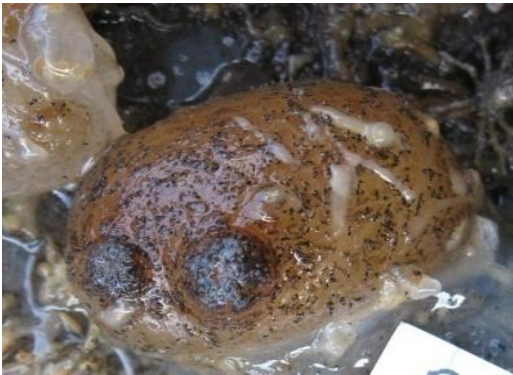


Tunicate (solitary) - *Ascidia callosa*

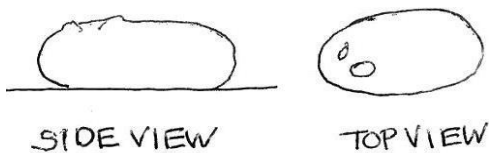
DESCRIPTION	This solitary tunicate is soft, hairless, ~1-2 mm thick and easily torn. Its body is wider than it is tall with a somewhat flattened appearance. The tunic margins are rounded and in old individuals looks wrinkled. Since this animal is lying mostly on its left side, the oral siphon is at the extreme anterior end of body, the atrial siphon is close to it but slightly posterior. Both siphons 6 lobed.
RANGE	Circumboreal in northern seas. In North America it's found from Alaska to Puget Sound, Washington. In Alaska it is found in Homer, Cordova, and Chenega.
SIZE	Body length up to 5 cm, ~3 cm in diameter.
STATUS	Native
COLOR	Clear, white to orange. More transparent when young.
HABITAT	Attaches to firm substrates, rocks in the intertidal and floats and ropes in harbors.
TIDAL HEIGHT	Low intertidal and sub-tidal to 146 m
SALINITY	15.2 to 33.3 ppt. (Homer & Seldovia Harbor range)
TEMPERATURE	neg 2.3 to 14.9 °C (Homer and Seldovia Harbor range)
SIMILAR SPECIES	It can be distinguished from <i>Ascidia columbiana</i> by the lack of a dense circle of papillae around the siphons. Rather, its siphons look a bit like those of <i>Cnemidocarpa finmarkiensis</i> , in that they cramp up when shut and have smooth edges. Also, the edges of its tunic are rounded and may roll up whereas the tunic of <i>A. columbiana</i> is wide and sheet-like at the base. It is a brooder, releasing tadpoled larvae, while <i>A. columbiana</i> is not a brooder. Locally it could be confused with <i>Molgula</i> but is flatter and attached on it's side.



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