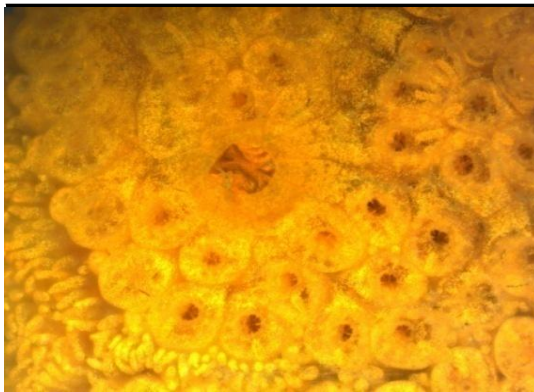


Tunicate (colonial) - *Botrylloides violaceus*

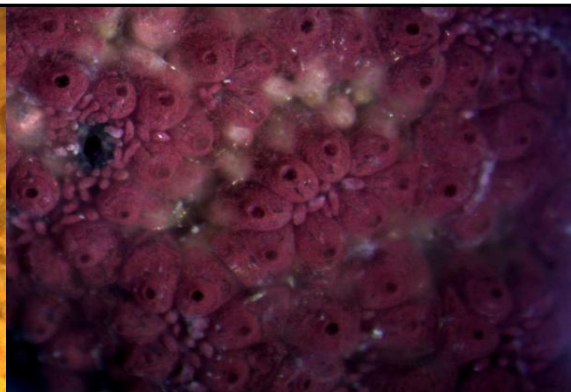
| | |
|---------------------|---|
| DESCRIPTION | This colonial tunicate is thin and lobe-like with zooids forming long double rows or chains. Short chains sometimes look similar to the flower-like pattern in <i>Botryllus schlosseri</i> . The tunic is relatively tough and leathery to the touch. |
| RANGE | Alaska to California. It was first noted on the west coast in San Francisco, CA in the early 1970's. Native to Japan and China, it has become abundant in Sitka and Ketchikan, AK over the last decade. |
| SIZE | Colonies can be large, up to 0.3 m diameter |
| STATUS | Invasive; see the full record at http://invasions.si.edu/nemesis/ |
| COLOR | Solid color, variable - often orange but can be red, yellow, purple, or tan, occasionally brown or lavender. |
| HABITAT | It generally grows subtidal in protected areas on a variety of surfaces such as docks, boat hulls, buoys, ropes, pilings, on top of and underneath rocks, on mussels and solitary sea squirts, seaweeds (see photo) and eelgrass. |
| TIDAL HEIGHT | Shallow subtidal, < 50m, but can be found in the intertidal in protected areas |
| SALINITY | 18-40 ppt |
| TEMPERATURE | -0.6 -25°C but generally found above 8°C |

SIMILAR SPECIES

Botrylloides diegensis is two toned with a light colored ring around the siphons and darker test. *Botrylloides spp.* do not form the star-like pattern found in *Botryllus schlosseri*, rather the zooids form long chains or ladders. Also distinctive, *Botrylloides violaceus* has numerous very large vascular ampulae that are visible in the lower left hand corner in the first photo to the left. Brooded larvae of *Botrylloides violaceus* are much larger than those of *Botryllus schlosseri*.



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©Gary Freitag note meandering rows



on algae ©Heather Meuret Woody