

NATIVE TUNICATES

Tunicate (solitary) - *Corella willmeriana*

DESCRIPTION	Solitary, sessile tunicate. Tunic transparent or translucent. Incurrent and excurrent siphons directed upwards, away from substratum. Oral & atrial apertures terminal; gut on right side of body (instead of left like most other solitary ascidians).
RANGE	Pacific Ocean from Alaska to Southern California. Often found in harbors and fouling communities. It is a primary colonizer, as the tadpoles have demonstrated preference to settle on clean, unfouled surfaces.
SIZE	1-5 cm tall. Taller than wide.
STATUS	Native
COLOR	Clear, with a faint pink or peach colored tinge. Glass-like. Tunic with small wrinkles. May have small white spots.
HABITAT	In Alaska found on settling plates hung 1m below water surface in harbors. Also, down to low intertidal and subtidally on hard surfaces.
TIDAL HEIGHT	Subtidal to 75 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	<i>Corella inflata</i> ; more white in color, has short intestine about half the body length, and a large expanded atrial brood pouch usually containing a clump of developing embryos.



©KBRR-C.Bursch



©KBRR-C.Bursch