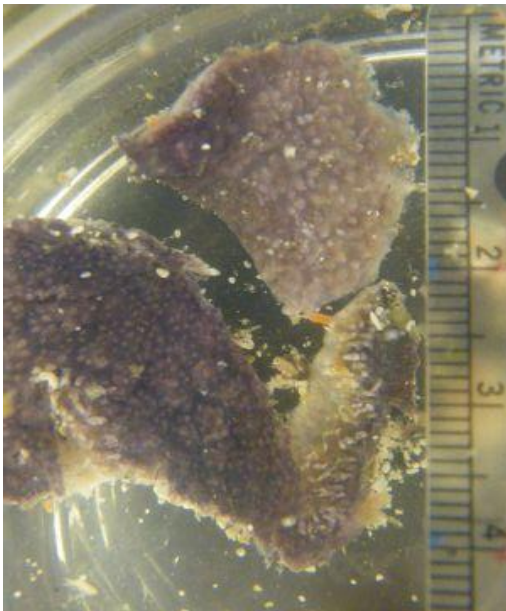


Tunicate (colonial) - *Distaplia occidentalis*

DESCRIPTION	This colonial tunicate, commonly called the mushroom ascidian, is globular (sometimes flat) with a short, narrow attachment stalk. The mushroom-like globe can be pale orange, yellow, pink, dark purplish-red, or brown. Each zooid has its own incurrent siphon and pharynx, but share a slightly raised common excurrent siphon and atrial cavity.
RANGE	Alaska to Southern California. In Alaska it has been seen in Prince William Sound, Kodiak Island and in the Sitka area.
SIZE	Most colonies are less than 2 cm in diameter, though they can be as large as 10 cm.
STATUS	Native
COLOR	Variable, pale orange, yellow, pink, dark purplish-red, or brown
HABITAT	rocky shore, and man-made structures.
TIDAL HEIGHT	Intertidal to 50 m.
SALINITY	High salinity species
TEMPERATURE	Cold water species
SIMILAR SPECIES	<i>Distaplia alaskensis</i> can be distinguished from this species by its more columnar lobes and often paler color.



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