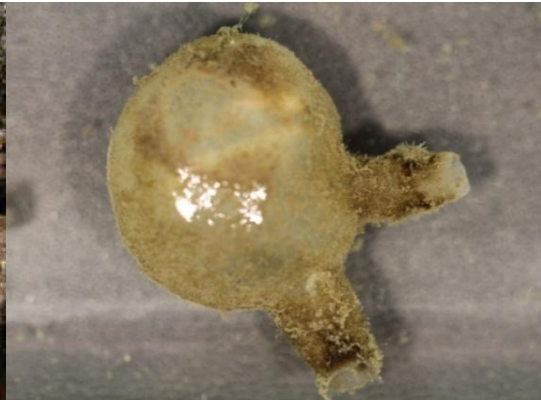


Tunicate (solitary) - *Molgula manhattensis*

DESCRIPTION	grape-like tunicate, sometimes laterally flattened, with 6 lobes on the oral (incurrent) siphon, thick tunic, often with some papillae (hair-like projections). Larvae with a tail
RANGE	Mexico to British Columbia; First recorded on the west coast in Tamales Bay, CA in 1949, it's introduced around the world. Native to the Atlantic coast of North America
SIZE	Body length to 1-5 cm.
STATUS	Invasive
COLOR	Clear, grey with a 'u' shaped intestine sometimes visible through the body wall, oriented vertically, body often sediment covered.
HABITAT	Attaches to firm substrates, such as rocks, boulder, shell and cobble as well as man-made structures. Can be found on sands as well. Tolerates pollution.
TIDAL HEIGHT	Low intertidal, but generally subtidal to 90 meters depth.
SALINITY	5-40 ppt: estuarine to marine
TEMPERATURE	tolerates a broad temperature range
SIMILAR SPECIES	Unlike <i>Ascidia</i> which is attached on its side, it is attached at its base. To identify <i>M. manhattensis</i> from other Molgulids can be difficult: look for the u shaped gut (see pictures), tadpole larvae (unlike <i>M. citrina</i>) and 6 branchial folds (requires dissection) as opposed to the 7 found in <i>M. retortiformis</i> , <i>M. pacifica</i> and <i>M. citrina</i> . Siphons are long and similar in length (unlike <i>M. retortiformis</i> and <i>M. pacifica</i>). Larvae are not brooded.



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