**Colonial Tunicate**

*Didemnum species*

- Creamy yellow- to tan-colored colonial invertebrate, resembling a sponge
- Young colonies are flat and thin. As the colonies mature, they spread over larger areas. Mature colonies may have long ropey or beardlike lobes
- Prefers hard, artificial or disturbed underwater surfaces, such as buoys, pilings, vessel hulls and rock walls

Distinguishing features: small, white dots and pinhole-sized pores on the tunicate’s surface.

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Club Tunicate

Styela clava

- Reddish-brown- to tan-colored solitary, stalked tunicate
- Grows and reproduces rapidly, forming dense communities
- Up to 15 centimeters in length
- Prefers artificial or disturbed underwater surfaces in protected bays and inlets with good water flow

Distinguishing features: long, club-shaped body, tapering to a thin stalk at base; two large siphons; purple stripes on siphons.

As a general rule, leave both of these non-native tunicates alone, avoiding any measures that might unintentionally further their spread. Instead, report any sightings or share the results of a survey dive by calling Washington Sea Grant Program by phone, 206.543.6600 or on the web at www.wsg.washington.edu, click on “New”, go to “Quick Links” and choose “Invasives.”

Photo Credits: Didemnum species (top two photos), Gretchen Lambert; Bottom Didemnum species, Stachowicz Lab. Sponge, WSGP; Styela clava, Stachowicz Lab.

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