

NANTUCKET MARINE FOULING ORGANISMS

iNATURALIST PROJECT INSTRUCTIONS

- Create an account for iNaturalist using the “Steps for iNaturalist page” found on the www.nantucketbiodiversity.org Marine Fouling Organisms page.
- **Under Projects:** Type “Nantucket Marine Fouling Organisms”.



- Use <http://www.boatma.com/tides/Nantucket.html> to determine when low tide is at the location you wish to survey.
- Locate a floating dock, rope, rock, piling, or investigate the wrack line for evidence of tunicates.
- When you find a target species (use guide on back), take a picture with your cell phone or a camera.
- Note what the tunicate was growing on and where the image was taken (if using your cell phone it should have a gps location imbedded in the photo, otherwise you may need to choose the location from a map).
- If you can, estimate how far from the nearest eelgrass bed the tunicate was found. Don't worry if you cannot tell, we can look that up later on.
- Estimate the spatial extent of the tunicate, using the scale bar on your guide. Oftentimes there will be many types grouped together, note whether the area is for all species or just for one type.

Where are they found?

Colonial tunicates are commonly found attached to docks, pilings, rocks, structures and plants.

What makes them a threat?

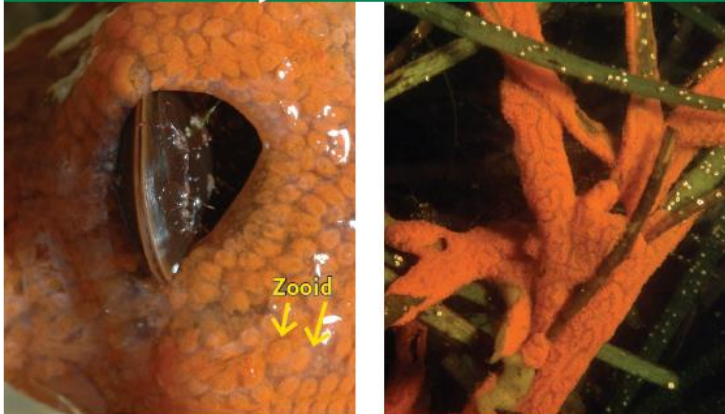
Invasive tunicates can colonize eelgrass blades and limit their ability to use sunlight for photosynthesis.

Think you found one?

Do not disturb it. Disturbing tunicates can lead to their spread. Note the location, size and what it is growing on ideally by taking a cell phone photo. Then visit the www.nantucketbiodiversity.org Marine Fouling Organisms page for more information on how to participate in iNaturalist Projects.

Tunicate Species

Botrylloides violaceus



- color orange, red, maroon, beige, white
- zooids in a pattern of meandering parallel rows
- no calcareous spicules

Botryllus schlosseri



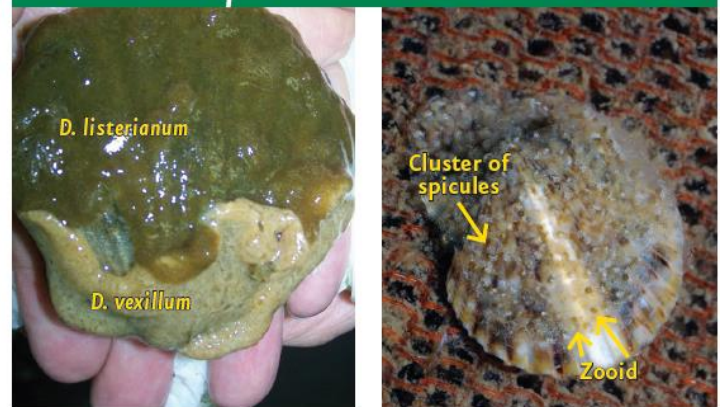
- color two-toned black, purple, beige, orange
- zooids in star or flower pattern
- no calcareous spicules

Didemnum vexillum



- color beige and pale yellow
- zooids in irregular shaped elongated loops
- white calcareous spicules throughout

Diplosoma listerianum



- olive green to translucent
- darker colored zooids appear randomly spaced
- clustered white calcareous spicules

Ciona intestinalis



- elongate to cylindrical shape
- smooth surface
- color translucent white to yellow
- up to 8 cm in length
- distinctive yellow ring around tips of siphons

Styela clava



- club shape
- rough, bumpy surface
- color beige to dark brown
- up to 15 cm long

