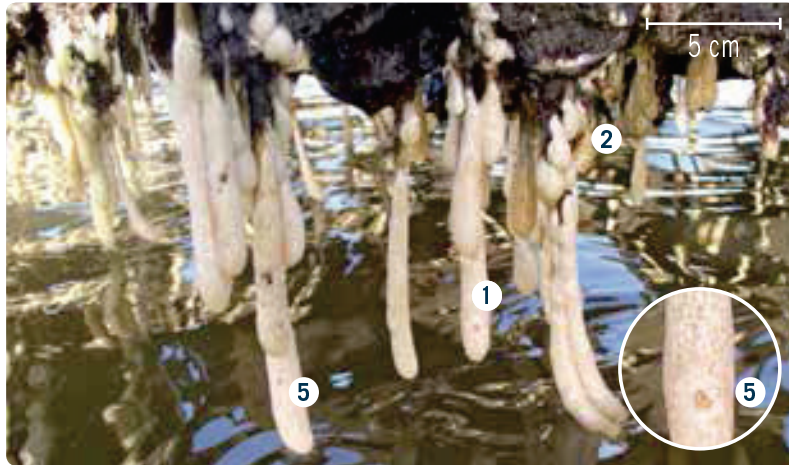


AUSTRALIAN DROPLET TUNICATE

Eudistoma elongatum

Key features

- 1 White or cream-coloured cylindrical tubes (tunics)
- 2 Sometimes with short, wartlike processes at the base



- 3 Generally 5–20 mm in diameter
- 4 Tunic generally 5–30 cm long but can reach 1.5m
- 5 Tunic contains many small individual organisms and can sometimes appear orange-flecked owing to the presence of bright orange larvae



Habitat

- Intertidal to subtidal
- Sand, mud, rock or seagrass beds
- Aquaculture structures
- Wharves, pontoons and buoys
- Estuaries, harbours and coasts
- Sheltered/semi-sheltered environments

Impact

- Can form dense colonies
- Displaces native and fisheries species
- Smothers beaches, rocks, tidepools
- Fouls boats, aquaculture installations and other marine structures



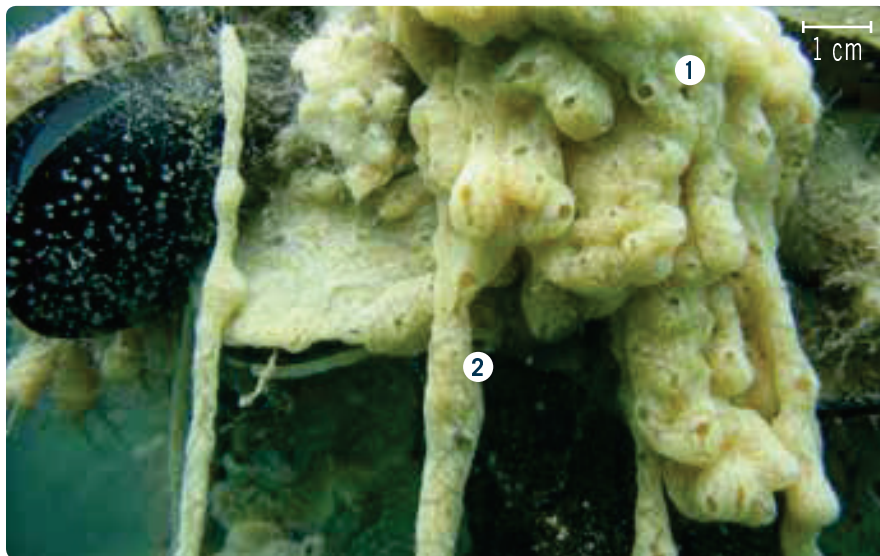
NATIVE SPECIES THAT LOOK SIMILAR



Sean Handley

How to differentiate *Eudistoma elongatum* from:

Didemnum spp. COLONIAL SEA SQUIRT



Paul Barter, Cawthron Institute

- 1 *Didemnum* forms mats with messy interconnected drooping entwined tendrils, whereas *Eudistoma* consists of discrete circular tubes
- 2 A fine network of regular canals is visible on the surface of *Didemnum* but not on *Eudistoma*, where the pores are more irregularly distributed and lack visible canals
- 3 *Eudistoma* is firm and gelatinous to the touch; *Didemnum* less so and is also easily torn

To report suspected marine pests or diseases call
0800 80 99 66