



Ciona intestinalis (Linnaeus, 1767)

Yellow-ringed sea squirt

Description

Ciona intestinalis is a solitary ascidian which is up to 15 cm high. This upright cylindrical sea-squirt has a smooth soft test. It is translucent and its colour varies from white to yellow. Muscular bands, branchial sac and intestine are visible through the test. The edges of the siphons have a yellow margin. Oral and atrial siphons are contiguous and terminal. The oral siphon has 8 lobes and the atrial one has 6 lobes. Yellow sea-squirts often live in groups attached to rocks, piles, hulls. It can be common in harbours because this species seems to bear polluted waters.

Distribution

Ciona intestinalis is found from low water level to 50 m deep in the Atlantic Ocean, the English Channel, the North Sea, the Baltic sea and the Mediterranean Sea.

Classification

Biota (Superdomain)
Animalia (Kingdom)
Chordata (Phylum)
Tunicata (Subphylum)
Ascidiacea (Class)
Phlebobranchia (Order)
Cionidae (Family)
Ciona (Genus)
Ciona intestinalis (Species)

Author

Text Anne Bay-Nouailhat © 2005 - 2022



Concarneau Bay, France, 5 meters, 2011, WBN



Concarneau Bay, France, 4 meters, 2011, WBN



Concarneau Bay, France, 11 meters, 2011, WBN