



Sheath Tunicate

Botrylloides violaceus

Characteristics

- * Usually orange, sometimes red or dull purple
- * Individual animals (zooids) arranged in loose circles, rows, or dense colonies
- * Dense colonies can be extensive, creating firm, gelatinous coating on submerged structures; colony sometimes forms lobes

Habitat

- * Grows on rocks, shells, pilings, seaweeds, ship hulls, and other submerged surfaces
- * Usually below low-tide line

Known Distribution

- * Newfoundland to Florida
- * Native to northwestern Pacific Ocean

Impacts

- * Competition with native species (invertebrates and algae) for living space
- * Grows over other organisms, interfering with their feeding and other behaviors



Sheath tunicate on rockweed

Credit: A. Pappal



Sheath tunicate (*Botrylloides violaceus*)

Credit: Dann Blackwood (USGS)



Sheath tunicate with other species

Credit: A. Pappal

