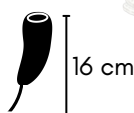
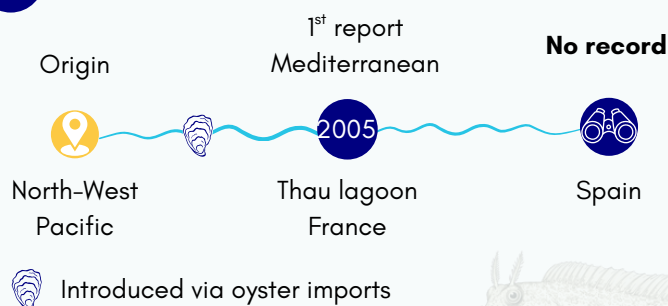


Clubbed Tunicate - *Styela clava*



ITS HISTORY



ECOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Styela clava **disrupts trophic networks** through direct competition with native filter-feeding species. It **smothers benthic fauna** under dense colonies. Classified as a major pest elsewhere (Canada, Japan), it threatens Mediterranean shellfish farming through **food competition** (up to -50% yield), **overloading of farming structures**, and **increased management costs** (up to 80% of production costs). It also poses **health risks** to workers (back and respiratory issues).

FUN FACTS

Produces **antibacterial substances**

Ascidian: key model for studying evolution

Consumed in Korea

IDENTIFICATION CRITERIA

Body shape: Elongated ovoid body in the **shape of a club**, attached by a **narrow** and **rigid** peduncle with a basal attachment disc. **Two close siphons** at the anterior end of the body.

Tunic: **Thick**, longitudinally **wrinkled**, with a mamillated surface on the anterior part

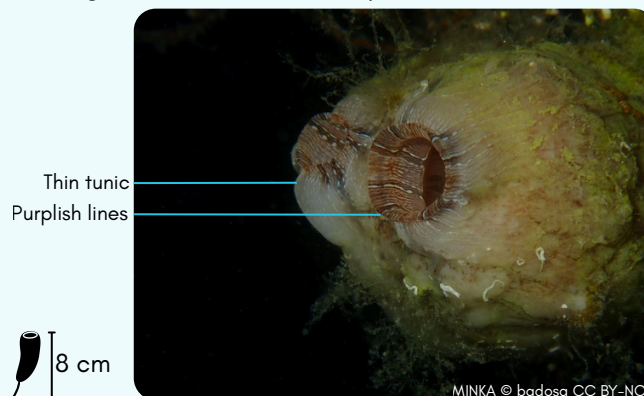
Color: **Light brown with dark brown peduncle** (large individuals); **yellow-brown** (small individuals)



SIMILAR SPECIES

Pleated sea squirt - *Styela plicata*

Non-indigenous mediterranean species



Report your observation

MINKA

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