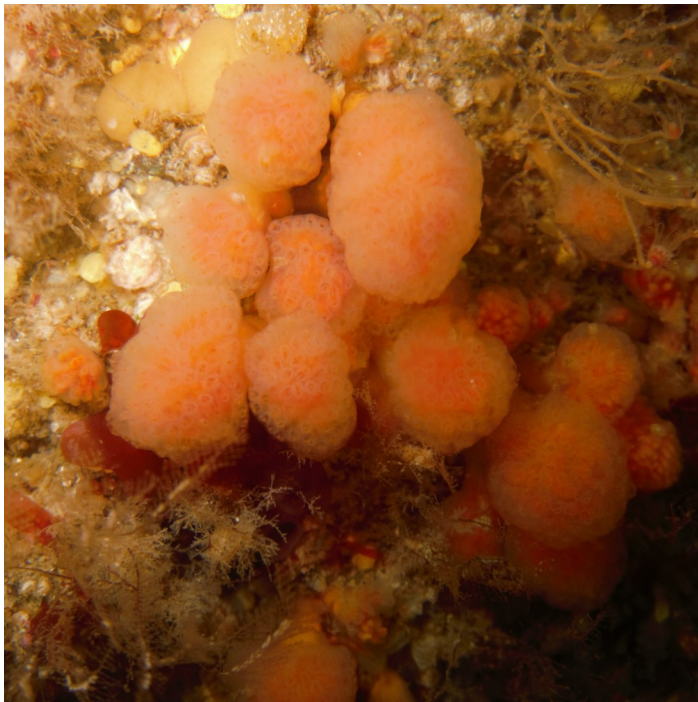


Orange club sea squirt (*Aplidium punctum*)

Ascidiacea (Tunicata: Aplousobranchia)



Stalked colonial sea squirt, generally orange in colour with transparent zooids (the individuals sea squirts) with a single spot on the zooids (below). May be confused with *Morchellium argus*, another stalked colonial sea squirt, except *M. argus* has 4 spots on the zooid. Colonies of *A. punctum* are small in size, typically less than 4cm, and found attached to rocky substrates in areas with moderate to strong currents.



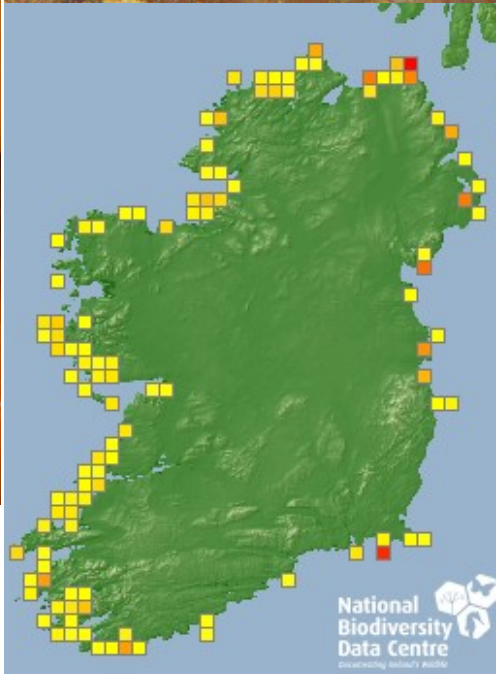
What dive sites can I see it at?

Found in areas with suitable rocky substrate, it is relatively widespread around the Irish coast. Can be abundant where present.

Taxonomy: Chordata->Ascidiacea->Aplousobranchia

IUCN Red List Categorisation: Not Assessed

Colonial sea squirt found in the temperate North east Atlantic from Norway to Spain. One of a number of benthic filter feeding organisms that can be used as bioindicators that indicate the presence of a natural ecosystem, free from anthropogenic disturbance¹. However this research was conducted in Spain and may not be applicable to Irish benthic communities.



1. Carballo, J.L. & Naranjo, S. (2002) Environmental assessment of a large industrial marine complex based on a community of benthic filter-feeders, Marine Pollution Bulletin. 44, 605-610.

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