

Fluted sea squirt (*Ciona intestinalis*)

Ascidiacea(Chordata:Phleobranchia)

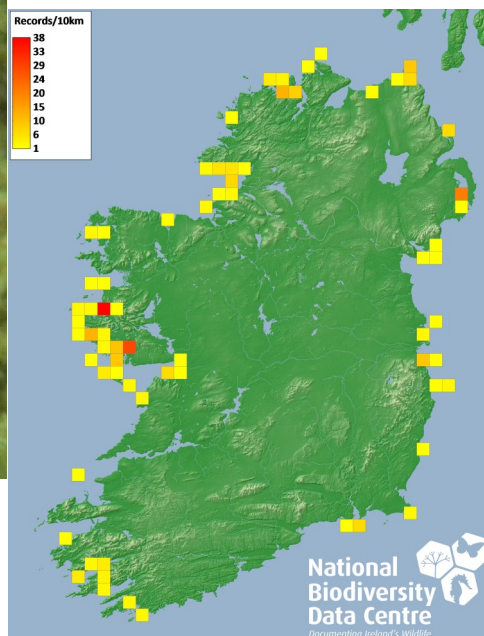
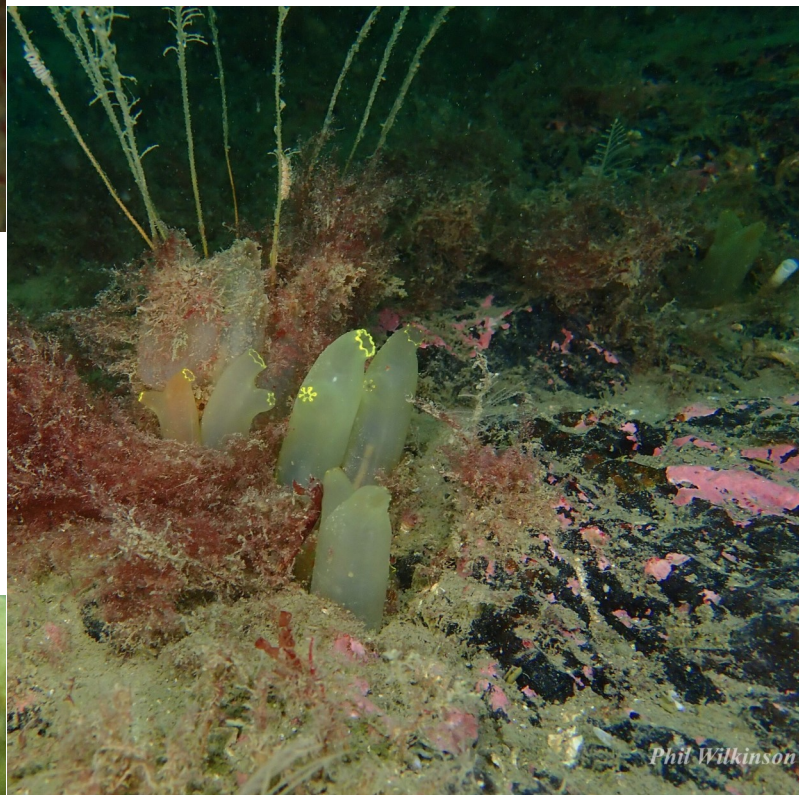


Chordata->Ascidiacea->Phleobranchia->Cionidae

IUCN Red List Categorisation: Not assessed

Found on all British and Irish coasts, this species is native to the North east Atlantic it has been introduced to a Australia, South America, North America and Asia. As in Ireland it is a highly competitive species and can cover large areas and rapidly colonise new areas. Can be locally extremely abundant on man made surfaces such as marinas and harbours covering large areas.

A relatively large solitary sea squirt this species is easily identifiable by the presence of a yellow markings around the oral and atrial siphons. May be confused with the dirty sea squirt (*Ascidella aspersa*) however *A. aspersa* does not have the yellow markings and tends to be covered in sediment or detritus. *C. intestinalis* may occasionally be orange in colour (below) though it is not known the exact cause of this colour variation.



Where?

Found on all Irish coasts where suitable habitat exists. More common on man made structures it is likely to be under recorded based on the distribution map for Ireland.

