



# CITY OF SAN DIEGO VOUCHER SHEET

**Species:** *Cnemidocarpa rhizopus*

**Authority:**

**Common Synonyms:**

*Styela* sp SD2 of Point Loma

**Taxon:** Chordata: Ascidiacea

**Date:** 18 November 1996

**By:** Dean Pasko

**Voucher Specimen(s):**

Station	Date	Storage Location	Voucher#
I-7	7/2/96		

## Characters:

Stalked simple ascidian - simple ascidian with moderate length, stolon (root-like process) with branched terminus

Tunic thick, opaque, covered with sand grains that are superficially embedded in tunic.

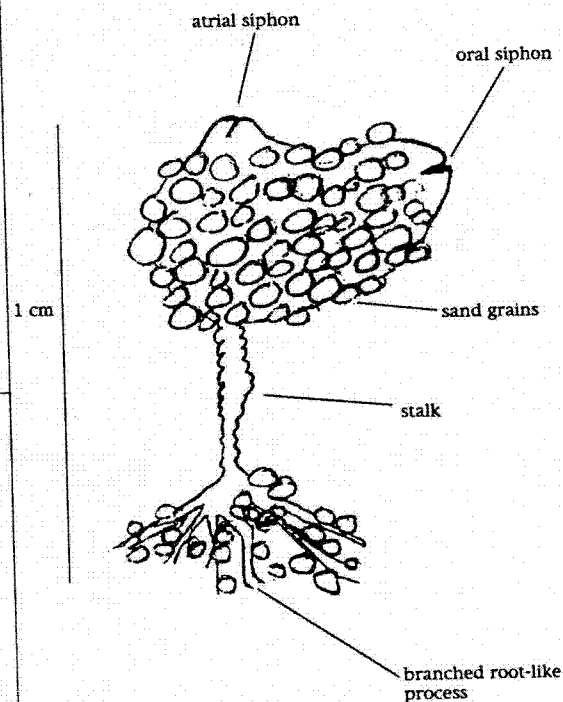
Branchial basket with longitudinal folds

Stigmata straight

Oral tentacles simple

Oral and atrial siphons with 4 distinct valves

## Illustration:



## Full Description:

### Related Species:

*Molgula napiformis* Lambert is a stalked, simple ascidian, with a transparent tunic covered with numerous short "hairs" to which sand grains adhere. The stolon is long, branched, with many long hairs (see figure on page 2). Additionally, *M. napiformis* has spiral stigmata.

*Styela montereyensis* is a stalked simple ascidian, but much larger, without sand grains on the tunic and attached to hard substrate (e.g., rock).

### Comments:

This species is quite distinct. It keys to *Styela montereyensis* using Vallee (1976), however, it differs from *S. montereyensis* in many ways. Dr. G. Lambert, of Cal. State Fullerton provided the "probable" identification, with slight reservations due to slight differences in the number and arrangement of longitudinal folds in the branchial basket

### References:

Lambert, G. 1993. Three new species of stolidobranch ascideans (Chordata: Ascidiacea) from the California continental shelf. Proc. Cal. Acad. Sci. Vol 48 (4): 109-118.

Vallee, J.A. 1976. A Preliminary Artificial Key to the Southern California Ascidiaceans. Proceedings of the Taxonomic Standardization Program, Vol 4 (4).

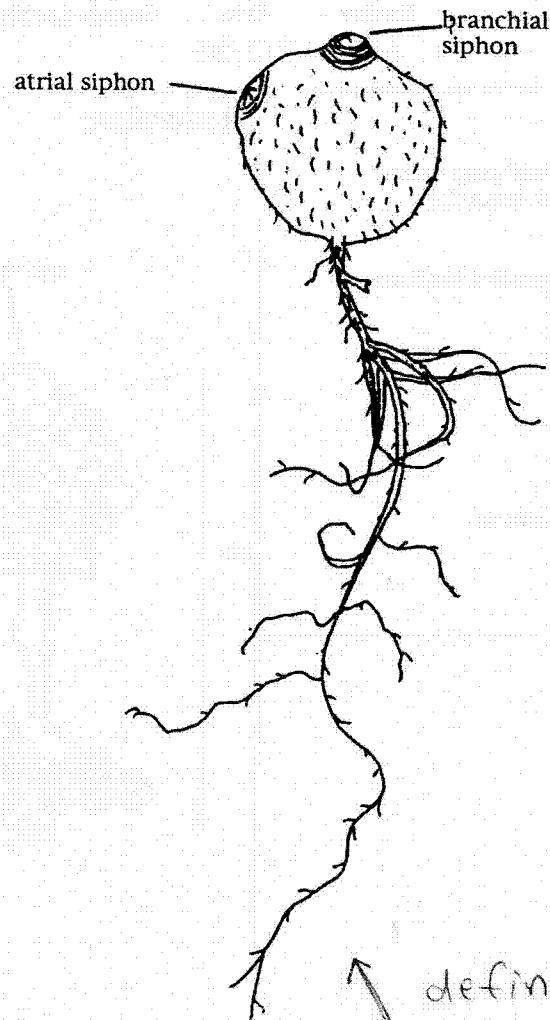
(over)

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Additional Illustrations:



↑ definite "stolon"  
not just long hairs

*Molgula napiformis*, whole animal, sand grains removed. (from Lambert, 1993)

Distribution—

Pt. Loma: shallow, sandy stations, (ITP Regional sampling stations)

Geographic:

Habitat: sandy substrates