



Botryllus schlosseri

Sea star squirt, Golden star tunicate

General

1. Marine, colonial tunicate
2. Colonies grow in flat sheets or lobes on hard substrata
3. Competes with native filter feeders for space and food
4. Fast growing, may overgrow neighboring organisms and alter community dynamics

Geography and Habitat

1. Native: Mediterranean, Adriatic and Black Seas, Great Britain, France
2. Introduced: Washington
3. Habitat
 - Grows on docks, boat hulls, buoys, ropes, pilings, rocks
 - Salinity range of 16 - 44 ppt, lethal temperature 3°C

Invasion Pathways

1. Ship hull fouling
2. Accidental introduction in shipments of live oysters or other wild-harvested or cultured organisms

Sources

1. <http://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/factsheet.aspx?SpeciesID=2418>
2. http://www.exoticguide.org/species_pages/b_violaceus.html

