



## Mycale armata

### Orange Sponge

#### Threat scores

1. Ecological impact
  - “Fouling species; possibly competes for space with native coral and sponge species; appears to be overgrowing one species of coral in Kaneohe Bay” (Molnar 2008).
2. Invasive potential
  - “A fouling organism requiring assisted transport for long distance expansion from introduced alien range. However, the sponge is expanding in Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. Removed sponge grew back over an average of 10 percent of the cleaned coral, while untouched sponge increased growths on coral 13%” (Molnar 2008).
3. Geographic extent
  - Locally patchy
4. Management difficulty
  - Control efforts ineffective.



#### Geography and Habitat

1. Origin: Australia (Great Barrier Reef); Torres Straits; Indo-Malay Region
2. Unintentional introduction, most likely as fouling on ships' hull.
3. Fouling communities, disturbed areas, coral reefs, marine habitats
4. “Mainly restricted to shallow-water fouling communities (i.e. pier pilings, floating docks) of major harbors on Oahu or associated disturbed habitats (i.e. dredged channels and artificial lagoons). On patch reefs in Kaneohe Bay, Oahu” (Molnar 2008).

#### Invasion Pathways

1. Hull/Surface Fouling
  - Accidental probable
  - Unintentional introduction, most likely as fouling on ship hull

#### Non native locations

1. 152- Hawaiian Islands

#### Sources

1. Molnar, Jennifer, et al. 2008. “Assessing the global threat of invasive species to marine biodiversity.” *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*. 6 (9), pp. 485-492.
2. <http://conserveonline.org/workspaces/global.invasive.assessment>
3. <http://hbs.bishopmuseum.org/invasives/images/Mycale%20armata.jpg>