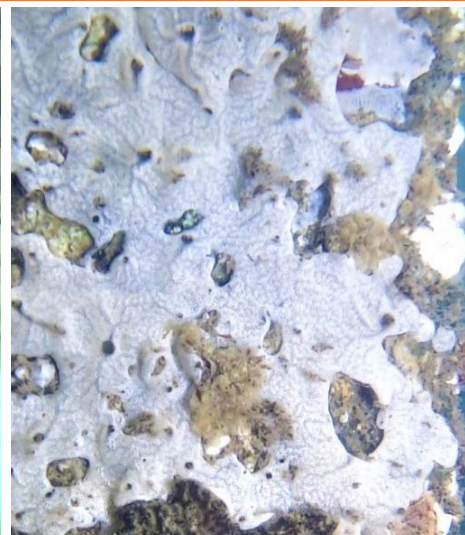
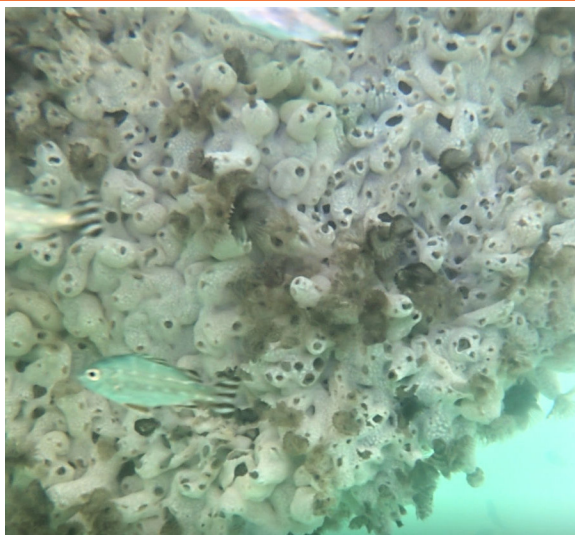
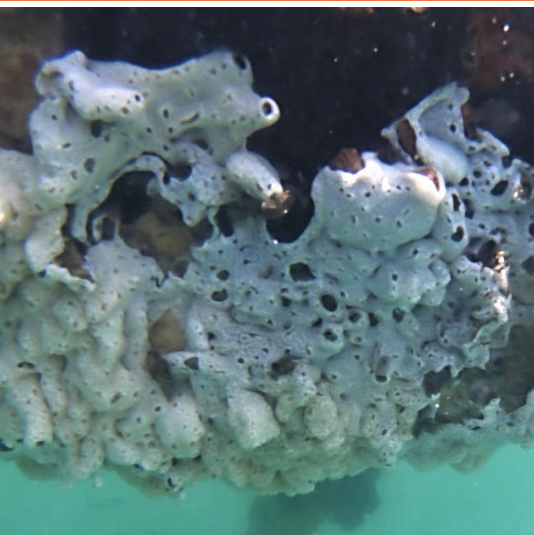


White colonial sea squirt

Prohibited marine animal

Look. Report. Protect. 13 25 23



- Potential to be highly invasive due to its rapid reproductive output.
- Can overgrow native species.
- Fast growing and can occupy disturbed habitats.
- Fouling of boats, wharf pylons, buoys, pontoons, marinas and marine aquaculture farms.
- Early detection and reporting helps protect Queensland's natural environment.

Description

White colonial sea squirt (*Didemnum perlucidum*) is predominately found growing on submerged and floating man-made structures such as buoys, moorings, pontoons, pylons and boats. It can also be found on hard natural substrates. It typically has a translucent, gelatinous appearance. The colony is made up of numerous individual zooids, which can be seen as small, sac-like structures clustered together. The body is usually translucent to pale yellowish, white or cream-colored, with a soft, almost gelatinous texture. The surface is typically smooth, although it can have a slightly bumpy or granular appearance due to the zooids' small openings. It looks a bit like a soft, semi-transparent layer of 'goo' or slime on the substrate, with the zooid openings giving it a slightly pocked or dotted surface.

Biosecurity risk

White colonial sea squirt has been detected in the Gulf of Carpentaria, Townsville, Airlie Beach, Abbot Point, Mackay and Brisbane. White colonial sea squirt is a colonial ascidian and can overgrow native species. It is introduced via fouling on ship hulls and possibly in ballast water. It can threaten marine industries, including ports, marinas, commercial fisheries, tourism and aquaculture.

What should I do?

If you think you have seen white colonial sea squirt, take a photo if safe to do so, record the location and report it to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 or scan the QR code to access our reporting web page. Please take reasonable and practical measures to prevent white colonial sea squirt from spreading including keeping boats clean and cleaning marine equipment before moving it between locations.

More information

Contact Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 or visit biosecurity.qld.gov.au.



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