



CITY OF SAN DIEGO VOUCHER SHEET

Species: *Molgula napiformis*

Authority: Lambert 1993

Common Synonyms:

Taxon: Chordata: Ascidiacea

Date: 14 May 1997

By: Dean Pasko

Voucher Specimen(s):

Station	Date	Storage Location	Voucher#
E-21	1-9-97		

Characters:

Small species 2-3 mm in size.

Simple ascidian possessing a long stolon (root-like process).

Stolon long, branched along its entire length and covered with many long "hairs".

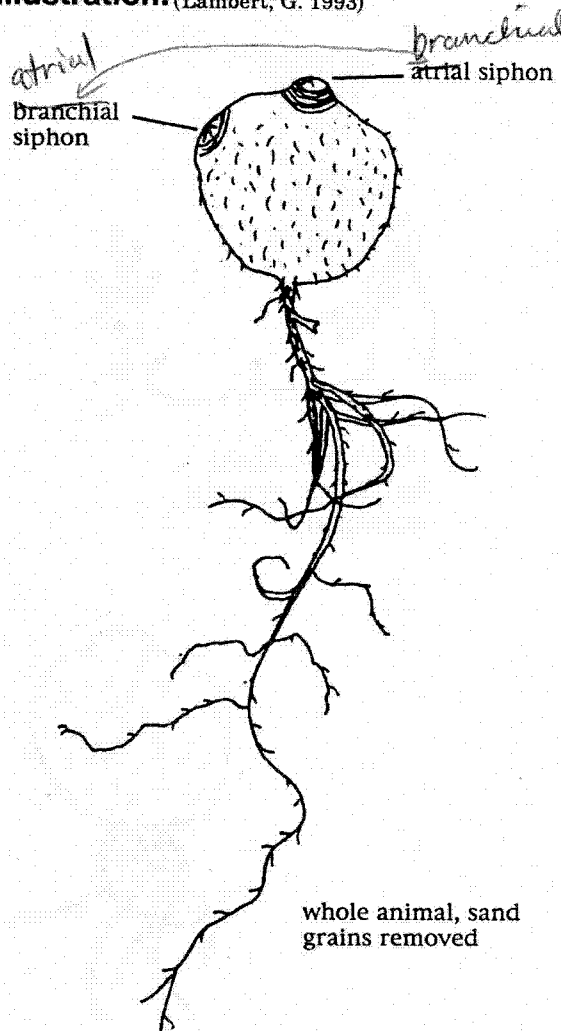
Tunic is thin, transparent tunic covered with numerous short "hairs" to which sand grains adhere.

Siphons are short and widely separated.

Branchial tentacles long, slender and variously branched.

Full Description: See Lambert, 1993

Illustration: (Lambert, G. 1993)



Related Species:

M. napiformis resembles *M. pugetiensis* however the latter does not possess a stolon or "hairs" on the tunic. It also resembles *Cnemidocarpa rhizopus*, which also possesses a stolon, the stalk of which is short, thick, and branched only terminally. Additionally, *C. rhizopus* has a thick tunic which does not have "hairs", though sand grains do adhere to it.

Comments:

A small species that may be easily overlooked. Compare to *Cnemidocarpa rhizopus* voucher sheet.

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.

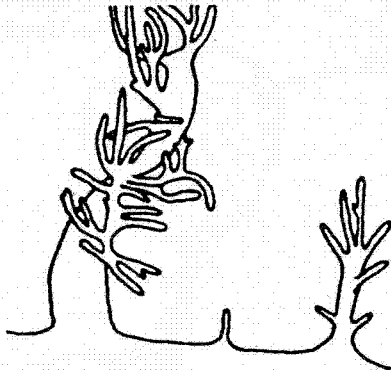
(over)

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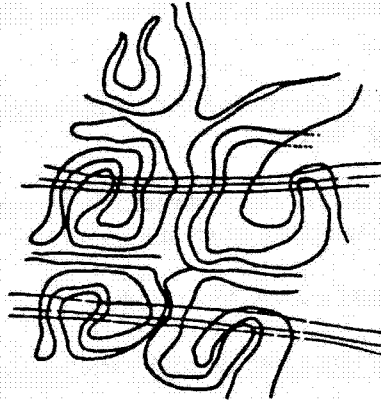
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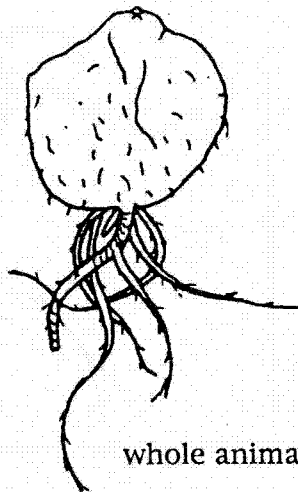
Additional Illustrations: (Lambert 1993)



three branchial
tentacles, greatly
enlarged



detail of branchial sac
(greatly enlarged)



whole animal

Distribution— (Lambert 1993)

Pt. Loma:

Geographic: Santa Maria Basin to San Diego, California, 90-100m

Habitat: Sandy substrates