

Colpomenia peregrina

Non-native to Maine

Sea Potato
Oyster Thief

Coastal
Rocky Intertidal

Growth Pattern



Lauren Stockwell

PERMITTED USE

It is epiphytic (doesn't grow directly on the ground) on other seaweeds, or can be found floating and detached. The main hollow can collapse on itself, especially as it gets larger.

Thallus (Body)



Hannah Traggis

PERMITTED USE

Look for a thin walled, hollow and bulbous brown-green algae. Varies in size based on age. Roughly 1cm - 7cm in diameter, although larger specimens are possible.



Lindsay Green

PERMITTED USE

Color



Flickr user Chris Moody

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Color is variable, although most are yellow-brown to green-brown.

Other Information



Flickr user Valter Jacinto

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While most certainly non-native to Maine, it is unknown if sea potato will be invasive or not to local ecosystems. It may often be found growing on coralline alga.

Similar Species

The native species sea cauliflower looks very similar, although sea cauliflower has much thicker walls, and looks more like brain than sea potato.

Did You Know?

Sea potato earned its common name 'oyster thief' due to its habit of attaching to oysters. Stories in Europe are that whole beds of oysters just floated away attached to oyster thieving balloons of sea potato!