GEORGIA AQUARIUM ANIMAL FACT SHEET

Strawberry Anemone

Corynactis californica

Range/Habitat

- The strawberry anemone is commonly found along the rocky shores of the Pacific coast from British Columbia and Northern California to the Baja Peninsula. However, it is rarely found in the intertidal zone north of California.
- This invertebrate occurs on rocky shores from the low intertidal zone to about the 66-foot (30 m) depth.
- It tends to form clusters of many individuals under rocky ledges and on shaded rocks, as well as on concrete pilings and legs of oil platforms.

Physical Characteristics

- The strawberry anemone is translucent and its most common colors are red, crimson or pink, but purple, brown, orange, yellow and nearly white colonies also can be found.
- The tentacles usually are transparent to white in color. They are bulb-tipped.
- This is a small anemone, measuring less than one inch (2 cm) both in height and in diameter.

Diet/Feeding

- The strawberry anemone is a plankton feeder, consuming copepods, nauplius larvae and other small zooplankton.

Conservation Status

- The strawberry anemone is not included on the IUCN Red List.

Additional Information

- The strawberry anemone is not a true anemone, although it superficially resembles one. It is a corallimorpharian, which is more closely related to stony corals, except that it lacks a calcareous exoskeleton.
- This invertebrate reproduces asexually by splitting longitudinally to form dense groupings all with the same color.
- It also reproduces sexually by releasing eggs and sperm into the water column which leads to the development of planktonic larvae that eventually settle to the bottom to form a new animal.
- The strawberry anemone also is known as the “club-tipped anemone” because of the rounded ends on its tentacles.
- This animal has a unique way of dealing with competition from adjacent invertebrates that try to crowd it out. The strawberry anemone extrudes filaments from its stomach through its mouth onto the encroaching animal. These filaments contain substances that kill the adjacent organism or force it to withdraw.
- The strawberry anemone is a favorite for use in marine biology laboratory exercises because its tentacles can be used to demonstrate nematocysts (stinging cells).

Sources

http://hmsc.oregonstate.edu/visitor/vclearn/tour/anemone.html

http://oceanlink.island.net/oinfo/biodiversity/strawberry.html
http://zipcodezoo.com/Animals/C/Corynactis_californica.asp
Intertidal Invertebrates of California. Morris, R.N., Abbot, D.P. and Haderlie, C.E. pgs 64-65