New England Marine Invader ID Card

Anemones and Corals

Diadumene lineata - Orange-Striped Anemone



- Body column light greenish to brown with vertical orange, white, or tan stripes
- Small (up to 1 inch tall)
- Crown of about 25 to 50 white tentacles
- Attaches to rocks, docks, muddy banks, and vegetation
- Often found in clusters growing close to the water surface
- Tolerant of a wide range of conditions, more common in estuaries
- Native to the Western Pacific, was introduced to New England in the late 1800s and now found throughout the region





Anemones and corals belong to a group of animals called cnidarians. They use tentacles with stinging cells (nematocysts) to feed. When out of the water, anemones retract their tentacles and can look like small lumps or gum drops.

Similar Species



Astrangia poculata Hard Coral, Northern Cup Coral

- Transparent, soft-bodied, tentacled polyps are white, pinkish, purple, or light brown and withdraw when disturbed
- Builds a colony of ¼-inch-wide polyps in calcareous, cup-like depressions on hard surfaces



 Only stony coral in New England, most common from Cape Cod south



Diadumene leucolena Ghost Anemone

- Translucent pink, orange, white, or green body
- Small (up to 1.5 inches tall)
- About 40 to 60 tentacles
- Can appear to have spots or thin, vertical stripes
- Clusters of individuals often seen attached to docks
- Found throughout New England on hard surfaces, less common north of Cape Cod



Edwardsiella lineata (=Fagesia) Lined Anemone

- Slender white to tan body with very pale, vertical stripes
- Small (up to 1.5 inches tall)
- About 40 tentacles
- Bottom of body column encased in a thin, brown mucus tube
- Attaches to rocks or other hard substrates like docks, often in clusters
- More common south of New Hampshire



Metridium senile Frilled Anemone

- Body color often white, cream, brownish, or pink
- Often much larger than other species (up to 18 inches tall and 9 inches wide)
- 100 to 1,000 tiny tentacles, which form bushy lobes in larger individuals
- Juveniles have fewer tentacles and can be visually similar to D. leucolena
- Found throughout New England attached to hard surfaces