

# Pink-Tipped Anemone



**Scientific name:** *Anthopleura elegantissima*

**Other Names:** Aggregating anemone, Elegant anemone

**Phylum:** *Phylum* Cnidaria → *Class* Anthozoa → *Subclass* Zoantharia → *Order* Actiniatia → *Family* Actiniidae → *Genus* Anthopleura → *Species* elegantissima

**Size:** up to 6" high and 3 1/8" or more wide.

**Habitat:** On rocks and hard surfaces such as docks and pilings, intertidal and shallow subtidal to about 60ft.

**Life Span:** Up to several years

**Diet:** A carnivore, the pink-tipped anemone feeds on small crustaceans such as copepods, isopods, amphipods, and other small animals that can get stung by the tentacles. Other small invertebrates and fishes may also fall victim to this anemone, if they wander too closely to the mouth.

**Range:** Alaska to Baja California.

## **Fun Facts:**

- ☆ Like the Giant Green anemone, the aggregating anemone's color comes from hosting symbiotic algae in its digestive tract. Species of dinoflagellates, zooxanthellae, and zoochlorellae are all microscopic animals that may be living in the anemone. Studies have shown that anemones without the algae lose weight faster than those with it, suggesting that these symbionts provide nutrition to the anemone.
- ☆ This species is very well known for its asexual reproduction, that results in the formation of large colonies of clones on rocks. Colonies of different clones can be distinguished by a 1-2 inch space between them, this is evidence of the battle zone - the anemones on the edges of these colonies fight and compete for space using specialized club-like tentacles filled with poison.
- ☆ This species of anemone collects sand, gravel and shell on their column, which may be for camouflage or shade using sticky tubercles.