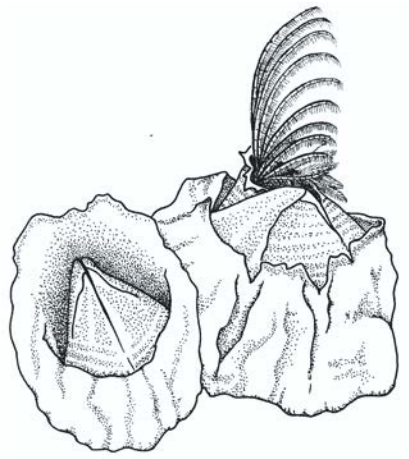
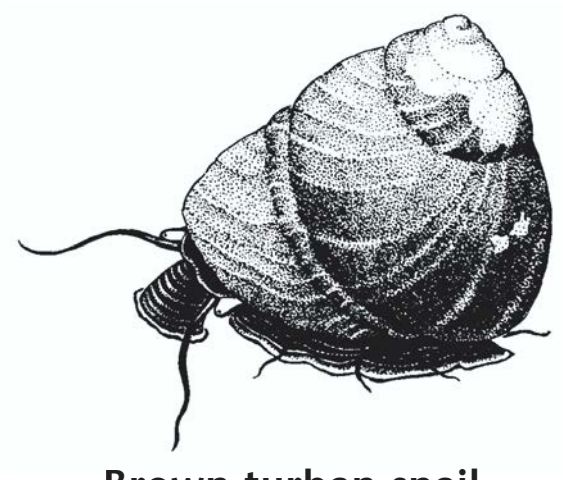


Barnacle

Barnacle
Balanus glandula [size: to 1 in. (2.5 cm)]

A young barnacle cruises at sea during its first weeks. When it's ready to settle down, the barnacle glues its head to a rock. Once attached, it changes into a juvenile barnacle, a miniature of an adult. Then each builds its own fortress—an odd-shaped limestone shell with a trap door in the ceiling. As sea water rushes by, the barnacle's legs kick bits of food down into its mouth.

Its shell closes tight at low tide, so the barnacle stays moist. It makes a juicy meal for a shorebird with a prying beak.

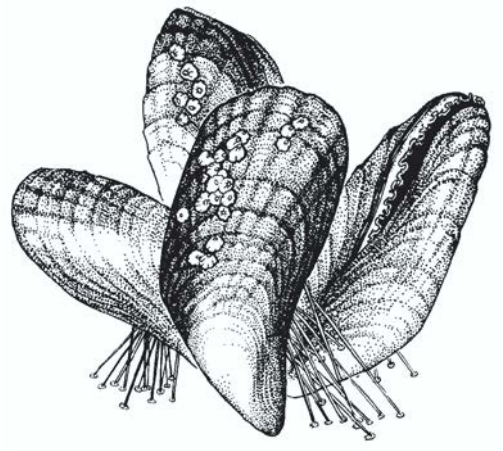


Brown turban snail

Brown turban snail
Tegula brunnea [size: to 1 in. (2.5 cm)]

At low tide, the brown turban snail stays under water or low on the shore. The turban snail scrapes algae with its filelike tongue, or radula. One lick from this snail can leave scrape marks on kelp.

If a wave flips a snail upside-down, it can pick up pebbles with its foot. By rolling with the added weight, the snail can turn right-side-up again.

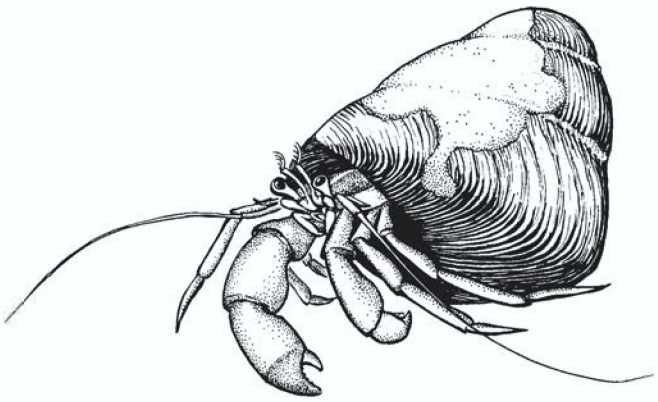


California mussel

California mussel
Mytilus californianus [size: to 5 in. (13 cm)]

Mussels crowd together on wave-swept rocks. To hang on to the rocks and each other, mussels make strong threads that look like plastic and stick better than superglue.

A mussel eats by filtering tiny plants and animals from the water. To collect enough food to survive, a mussel has to filter two to three quarts of water an hour.

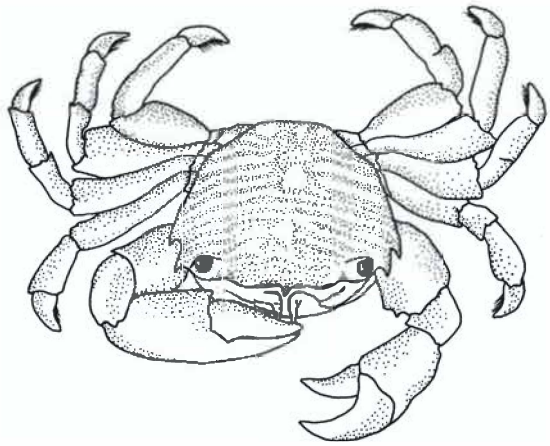


Hermit crab

Hermit crab
Pagurus samuelis [size: to 1 in. (2.5 cm)]

A hermit crab wears an empty snail shell to protect its soft body. The back legs hold the shell on tight. As the crab grows, it needs bigger shells. One hermit crab will even steal a good shell from another crab.

Though a hermit crab threatens and fights with its large claws, it's not a hunter. This crab eats seaweeds and dead animals.

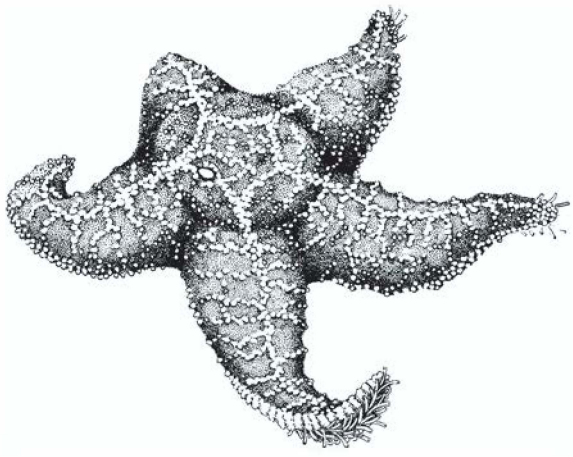


Lined shore crab

Lined shore crab
Pachygrapsus crassipes [size: to 2 in. (5 cm)]

The shore crab dances sideways down to the sea and then back up over the rocks. Using tiny cups on its pincers, the crab scrapes small plants off the rock to eat.

This crab is so flat, it can hide in cracks in the rocks. If a hungry gull grabs the shore crab's leg, the crab can shed the captured limb and dash away. In time, a new leg will grow back.

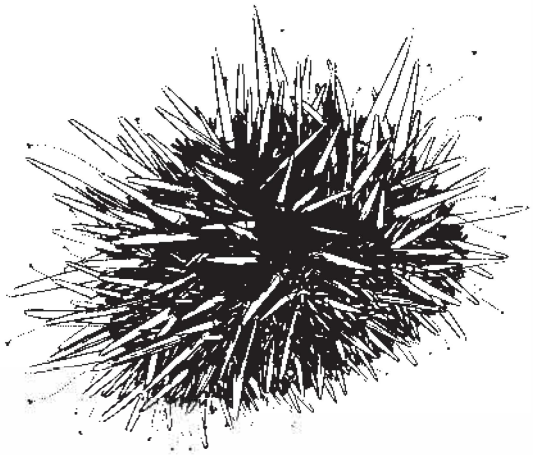


Ochre star

Ochre star
Pisaster ochraceus [size: to 1 ft. (30 cm)]

This sea star has hundreds of tiny suction-cup feet under each arm that help it stick to rocks. The sea star is a real loafer; it clings motionless on a rock for weeks.

Even a hungry sea star isn't hasty. Slow and steady, its feet can pry apart a mussel. When the mussel's two shells open, the sea star slides its stomach between the shells to digest the animal inside.

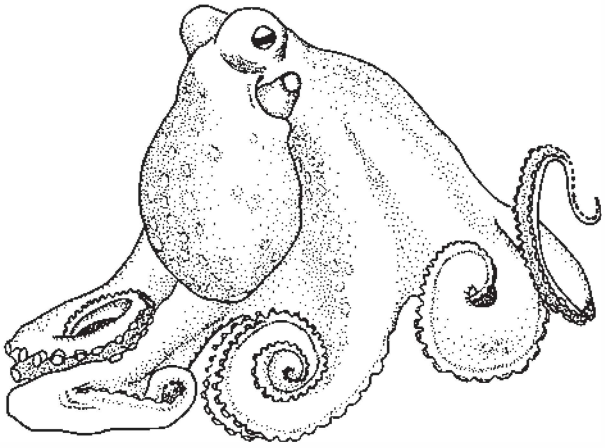


Purple sea urchin

Purple sea urchin
Strongylocentrotus purpuratus [size: to 4 in. (10 cm)]

Using their spines and teeth, urchins burrow slowly into solid rock. Because they grow as they dig, some end up trapped in holes, too big to leave.

Between the hard spines, an urchin has hundreds of tube feet. Its soft tube feet are always busy: some hold the urchin onto the rock; others move kelp to the urchin's greedy mouth.

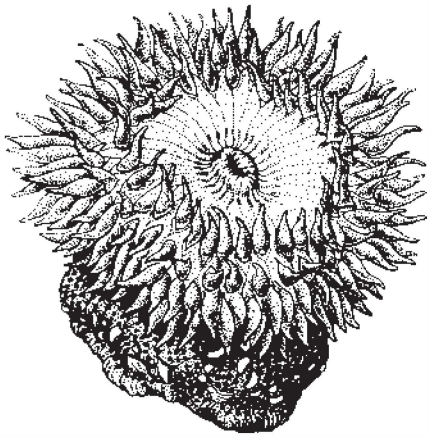


Red octopus

Red octopus
Octopus rubescens [size: to 20 in. (50 cm)]

Like magic, this octopus can change its color and shape in a flash. It can also squeeze through small holes to hide in caves or under rocks.

A hiding octopus keeps out of danger. And a quick armful of suckers can surprise a crab or fish. The octopus's body is soft except for a parrotlike beak that's sharp enough to kill and tear up food.

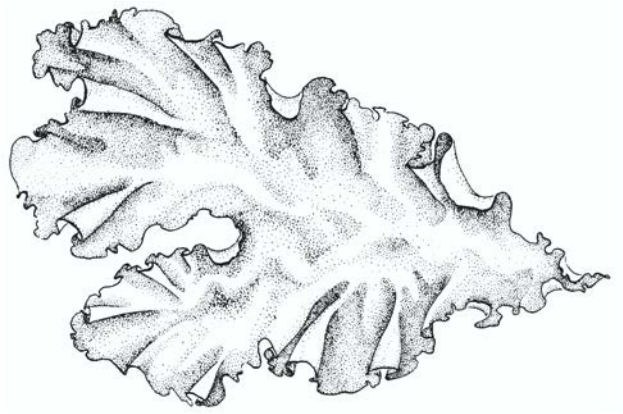


Sea anemone

Sea anemone
Anthopleura elegantissima [size: to 10 in. (25 cm)]

The sea anemone looks like a flower on a thick, bumpy stalk, but it's really an animal. The flowery parts are tentacles with stingers. The stingers zap small animals that get too close; then the anemone swallows them whole.

At low tide, the anemone closes up. Bits of shell stuck to the bumpy flesh help keep the sea anemone from drying out.

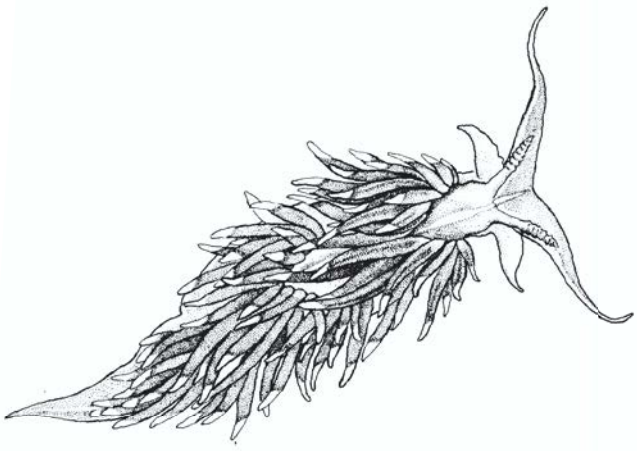


Sea lettuce

Sea lettuce
Ulva sp. [size: to 8 in. (20 cm)]

Sea lettuce is as green as lettuce from land, but it's only two cell-layers thick. Although it's thin and fragile-looking, sea lettuce can survive pounding waves and drying sun.

These plants quickly overgrow bare rocks. Just as quickly, sea lettuce is gobbled up by snails and crabs.

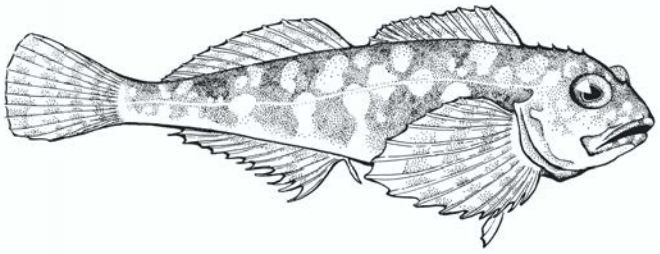


Sea slug

Sea slug
Phidiana crassicornis [size: to 3 in. (8 cm)]

This blue-and-orange sea slug is a cruel beauty. It tastes terrible and it has stingers. Maybe the bright colors warn other animals, "Don't mess with me!"

This sea slug eats all kinds of animals, some small, some large, some already dead. When two hungry sea slugs meet, they may fight a terrible battle to the death. The loser becomes the breakfast of champions.



Tidepool sculpin

Tidepool sculpin
Oligocottus maculosus [size: to 8 in. (20 cm)]

A tidepool sculpin is hard to see because its colors match the rocks and plants it lives on. A sculpin on sea lettuce won't look like one living on gray rocks.

At high tide, this fish travels about looking for small animals to eat. At low tide, it hurries back to its tide pool. Even if it explores nearby pools, a sculpin can find its way back home.