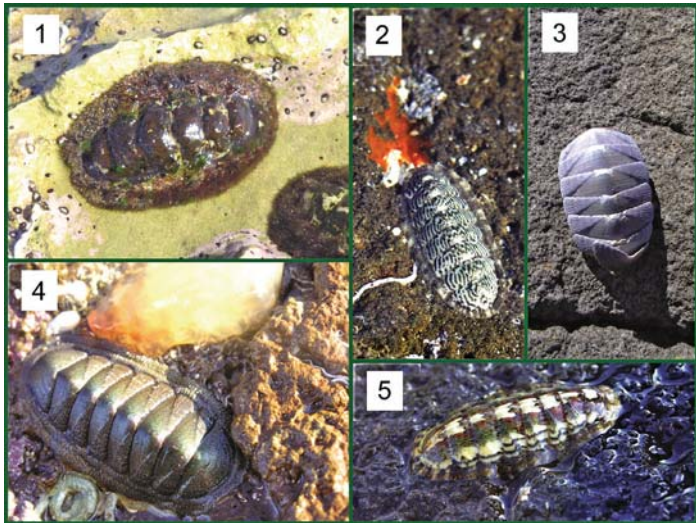


# Chitons

(Class Polyplacophora)



Chitons are distinctive grazing molluscs which have eight slightly overlapping plates joined together that allow flexibility while moving around rocks. A large muscular foot makes Chitons well suited for living in areas of high wave activity and also allows them to clamp themselves tightly down if disturbed.

	Name	Description
1	<i>Plaxiphora albida</i> Hairy Chiton Length to 100mm	Living on the top of the reef close to the low water edge these large chiton are often covered in a growth of algae making it hard to distinguish the plates on their backs.
2	Other Chitons	There are many other small pale or multicoloured chitons such as these found in the rockpools. Many are unique to south eastern Australia.
5	<i>Ischnochiton elongatus</i>	
3	Chiton shells	Empty chiton shells can be found washed up on the shore. Here you can clearly see the eight plates.
4	<i>Ischnochiton australis</i> Green Chiton Length to 90mm	Found in large numbers on the underside of basalt boulders these dark green chitons move quickly (relatively!) if exposed to light.