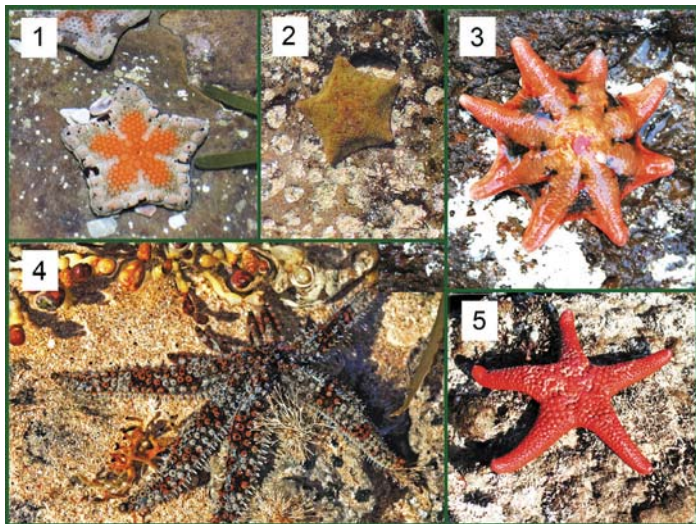


Echinoderms – Seastars

(Class: Asteroidea)



Seastars are instantly recognisable and have a body comprising a hollow central disc and multiple arms radiating out from this and canals of water flowing through them. Under the arms are grooves containing the tube feet which can cling to surfaces and aid in obtaining food. To feed, seastars push out their stomachs and digest food externally before slurping it up.

	Names	Description
1	<i>Tosia australis</i> Biscuit Star	Feeding mainly on sponges, bryozoans and other attached invertebrates these stunning seastars are occasionally seen in deeper pools. Diameter to 100 mm
2	<i>Parvulastra exigua</i> Little Green Seastar	Common in shallow pools at the base of the Bluff this small five sided seastar is greenish in colour. Diameter to 13 mm
3	<i>Meridiastra calcar</i> Common Seastar	Many different colours including orange, blue, green and grey make these colourful scavenging seastars popular features of many rockpools on the Bluff. Diameter to 100 mm
4	<i>Coscinasterias muricata</i> 11 Armed Seastar	One of the larger predatory seastars in Victoria this seastar feeds on molluscs like mussels and has interesting spines equipped with tiny pincers on its arms. Diameter to 500 mm
5	<i>Nectria ocellata</i> Ocellate star	Another deeper reef species these orange, red or yellow seastars are occasionally washed into rockpools. Diameter to 260 mm