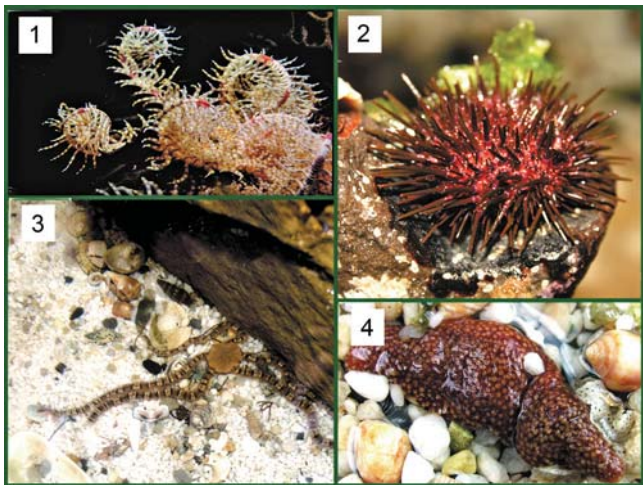


Echinoderms – Sea Stars and their Relatives

(Phylum: Echinodermata)



Other members of this group, while perhaps less well known, are also important parts of the reef community and play roles as grazers, scavengers, and recyclers.

They all share the basic features of echinoderms as outlined but have very different body shapes that match their lifestyles.

| | Names | Description |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | Feather Star Class: Crinoidea | The feathery arms of these stars are covered in sticky tentacles to capture food when extended into the water. |
| 2 | <i>Heliocidaris erythrogramma</i> Purple Sea Urchin Class: Echinoidea | Urchins have a rounded shape and are covered in spines with a set of powerful triangular teeth on the base, used for munching through algae. Diameter to 70mm |
| 3 | Brittle Star Class: Ophiuroidea | With long slender but solid arms brittle stars are often found under rocks where they feed on small pieces of organic material. |
| 4 | Sea Cucumber Class: Holothuroidea | During the daytime sea cucumbers are found under rock, emerging at night to consume large quantities of sediment to get their food. |