Intertidal Rocky Shore Life

An identification guide for the Central and Hunter Coasts of NSW, Australia



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Avondale UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

This photographic guide is designed for use in the field for the quick identification of many of the common species found on intertidal rocky shores.

If you have suggestions/comments
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The latest version of this guide is located at
https://research.avondale.edu.au/sci_math_books/5/

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Brown algae



Common ecklonia kelp (*Ecklonia radiata*)



Globe algae (*Colpomenia sinuosa*)



Neptune's necklace (*Hormosira banksii*)



Strap weed (*Phyllospora comosa*)





Lacerated sargassum (*Sargassum lacerifolium*)



Encrusting spongy algae (*Petrospongium rugosum*)



Peacock weed (*Lobophora variegata*)

Brown algae continued...



Iridescent brown forkweed
(*Dictyota dichotoma*)



Iridescent banded fanweed
(*Stypopodium flabelliforme*?)





Plate padina (*Padina* sp.)



White-edge fanweed (*Zonaria* sp.)



Brown crinkleweed (*Dilophus marginatus*)



Pipe cleaner weed (*Sargassum* sp.?)



Tubular string weed (*Scytosiphon lomentaria*)

Red algae



Articulated coralline algae (*Amphiroa anceps*)



Short coralline algae (*Corallina officinalis*)



Blue iridescent champia (*Champia compressa*)



Bushy iridescent algae (*Laurencia majuscula*)





Encrusting coralline algae (Corallinaceae)



Serrated red algae (*Plocamium* sp.)



Slimy encrusting red algae

Green algae



Sea lettuce (*Ulva australis*)



Sea velvet (*Codium fragile*)



Baitweed (*Ulva compressa*)



Furry globe (*Codium* sp.)



Stiff-tube green algae
(*Valoniopsis pachynema*)



Spaghetti green algae



Bubble caulerpa (*Caulerpa geminata*)



Bootstrap caulerpa (*Caulerpa filiformis*)

Sponges



Blood sponge



Purple sponge (*Haliclona* sp.)





Orange encrusting sponge



White sponge



Melted chocolate sponge
(*Chondrilla australiensis*)



Yellow sponge

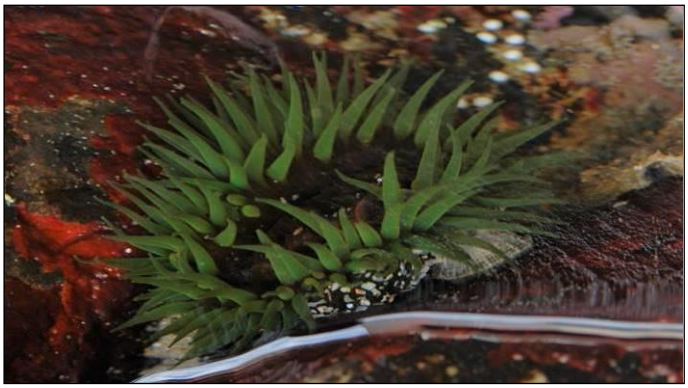


Orange ball sponge (*Tethya* sp.)

Anemones




Waratah anemone (*Actinia tenebrosa)*

Green anemone (*Aulactina veratra*)




Sand anemone (*Oulactis muscosa*)




Orange anemone

Anemones continued...




Passionfruit anemone (*Phlyctenanthus australis*)



Pink-tipped anemone



Banded anemone




Swimming anemone (*Phlyctenactis tuberculosa*)

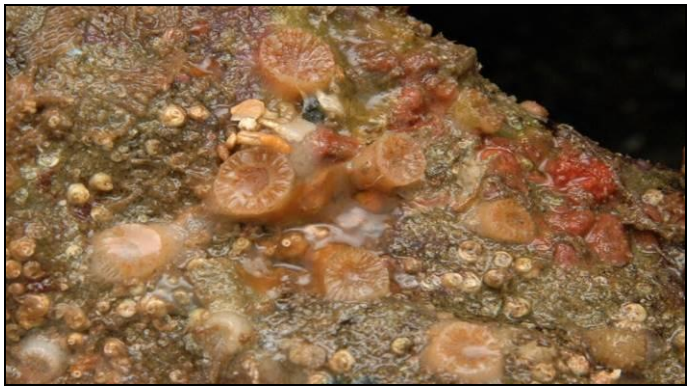


Colonial slimy anemones



White-lined anemone (*Anthothoe albocincta*)

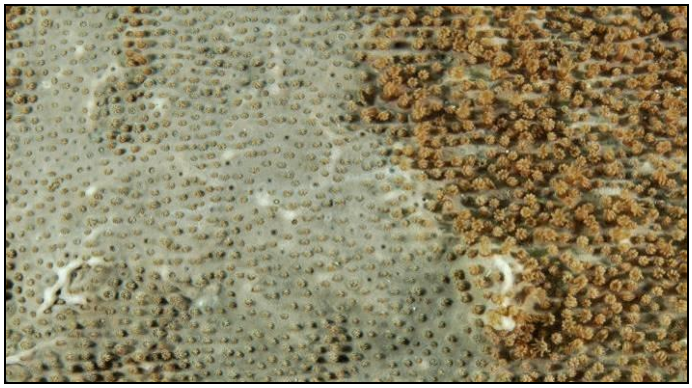
Stony corals



Orange stony coral (*Culicia tenella*)

Zoanthids





White zoanthid coral?

Peanut worms





Peanut worm (*Phascolosoma noduliferum*)

Polychaete worms



Spirorbid worms (*Spirorbis* sp.)



Galeolaria (*Galeolaria caespitosa*)



White tubeworm (*Hydroides elegans*?)



Scale worm (*Lepidonotus melanogrammus*)





Southern fanworm (*Sabellastarte australiensis*)



Fireworm (*Eurythoe complanata*)



Shell-cased tubeworm (*Diopatra dentata*)

Other worms



Banded nemertean



Brown nemertean



White flatworm

Barnacles




Rose barnacle (*Tesseropora rosea*)




Tessellated barnacle (*Tetraclitella purpurascens*)



Six-plated barnacle (*Chthamalus antennatus*)



Surf barnacle (*Catomerus polymerus*)



Purple barnacle (*Austrobalanus imperator*)



Honeycomb barnacle (*Chamaesipho tasmanica*)

Amphipods



White-lined amphipod (*Amaryllis philatelica*)



Common amphipod

Shrimps



Red-striped shrimp (*Alope orientalis*)



Serrated hinge-back shrimp (*Rhynchocinetes serratus*)



Rockpool shrimp (*Palaemon serenus*)

Crabs





Three-pronged spider crab (*Halicarcinus ovatus*)



Red bait crab (*Plagusis chabrus*)



Reef crab (*Ozius truncatus*)





Swift-footed crab (*Leptograpsus variegatus*)



Sowrie crab (*Davusia glabra*)



Smooth rock crab (*Cyclograpsus audouinii*)

Crabs continued...



Red hermit crab (*Strigopagurus strigimanus*)



Frill-legged crab



Common hairy crab (*Pilumnus tomentosus*)



White bumpy crab

Chitons



Snake-skin chiton
(*Sypharochiton pelliserpentis*)



Australian black chiton
(*Ischnochiton australis*)



Mysterious chiton (*Cryptoplax mystica*)



Giamard's chiton (*Acanthopleura gaimardi*)



Leather-girdle chiton (*Onithochiton quercinus*)



Elongate chiton (*Ischnochiton elongatus*)



Hairy chiton (*Plaxiphora albida*)



Wide girdle chiton

Chitons continued...



Blotched chiton (*Ischnochiton versicolor*)



Zebra chiton



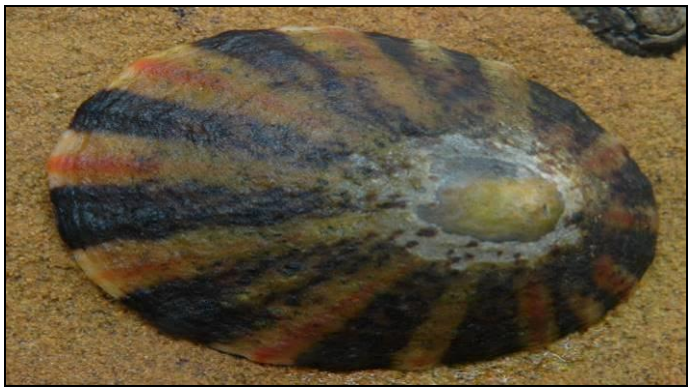


Green and white chiton (*Ischnochiton fruticosus*)



White chiton (*Leptochiton badius?*)

Limpets



Variegated limpet (*Cellana tramoserica*)



Giant limpet (*Cellana solida*)



Leaning limpet (*Clypidina rugosa*)



Rough limpet (*Siphonaria diemenensis?*)



Tiny black limpets



Fingernail limpet (*Patelloida alticostata*)



Black-and-white limpet (*Siphonaria funiculata*)



Teardrop limpet (*Notoacmea petterdi*)

Limpets continued...



Star limpet (*Scutellastra chapmani*)



Pied limpet (*Patelloida latistrigata*)



Peron's limpet (*Scutellastra peronii*)



Tall keyhole limpet (*Diodora lineata*)



Elongate keyhole limpet
(*Amblychilepas nigrita*)

Snails



Zebra periwinkles (*Austrocochlea porcata*)



Pied winkle (*Austrocochlea concamerata*)



Oyster borer (*Morula marginalba*)



Cartrut shell (*Dicathais orbita*)



Ribbed spiral shells (*Aclophoropsis maculosa*)



Green warrener (*Turbo undulatus*)



Striped-mouth conniwink (*Bembecium nanum*)



Elongate abalone (*Haliotis coccoradiata*)

Snails continued...



Noddiwinks (*Nodilittorina pyramidalis*)



Blue periwinkle (*Austrolittorina unifasciata*)



White ear shell (*Granata imbricata*)



Hairy triton (*Cabestana tabulata*)





Spengler's triton (*Cabestana spengleri*)





Giant red triton (*Charonia lampas*)

Snails continued...




Giant turban snail (*Turbo torquatus*)




Military snail (*Turbo imperialis*)



White-spotted cowrie (*Cypraea vitellus*)



Tent shell (*Astralium tentoriformis*)



Triton whelk (*Agnewia tritoniformis*)



Black nerites (*Nerita melanotragus*)

Sea slugs



Elephant snail (*Scutus antipodes*)



Smooth sea hare (*Aplysia sydneyensis*)



Umbrella shell (*Umbraculum sinicum*)



Warty sea hare (*Dolabrifera brazieri*)





Red-lined bubble shell (*Bullina lineata*)



Brown bubble shell (*Hydatina physis*)



Passionfruit slug

Nudibranchs



Black-lined nudibranch
(*Glossodoris atromarginata*)



Purple-spotted nudibranch
(*Ceratosoma brevicaudatum*)



Tessellated nudibranch (*Aphelodoris varia*)



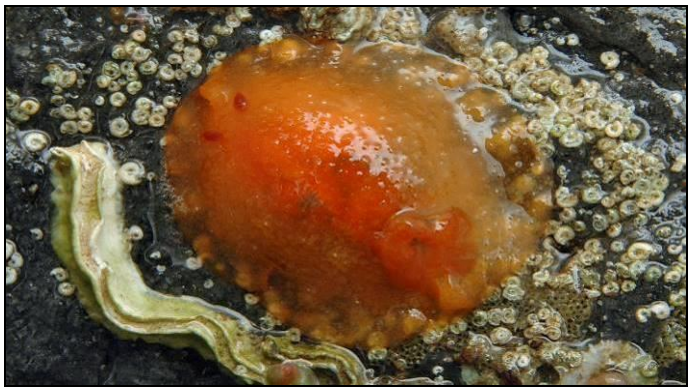
Retro nudibranch (*Ceratosoma amoenum*)



Ash nudibranch (*Hypselodoris obscura*)



Cowrie nudibranch



Orange nudibranch (*Doriopsilla carneola*)



Red-spotted clown nudibranch
(*Chromodoris splendida*)

Nudibranchs continued...



White-edged nudibranch



Penny nudibranch (*Dendrodoris* sp.)



Blue nudibranch (*Hypselodoris bennetti*)



Scribbled nudibranch (*Doriopsilla miniata*)



Black-spotted nudibranch

Bivalves



Sydney rock oyster (*Saccostrea glomerata*)



Blue mussel (*Mytilus galloprovincialis*)



Smooth-sided scallop



Rough cardita (*Cardita crassicosta?*)



Jingle shell (*Anomia trigonopsis*)



Thorny orange oyster (*Spondylus tenellus?*)



Hairy mussel (*Trichomya hirsuta*)



Scallop (*Scaeochlamys livida?*)

Octopuses




Gloomy octopus (*Octopus tetricus*)

Bryozoans



Lace bryozoan

Feather stars




Red feather star (*Ptilometra australis*)

Sea stars




Pentagon sea star (*Parvulastra exigua*)



Eleven-armed sea star
(*Coscinasterias muricata*)



Asymmetrical sea star
(*Allostichaster polyplax*)



Six-armed sea star (*Meridiastra* sp.)



Biscuit sea star (*Pentagonaster dubeni*)





Eight-armed sea star (*Meridiastra calcar*)

Brittle stars



Schayer's brittle star (*Ophionereis schayeri*)



Black brittle star (*Ophiothrix* sp.?)

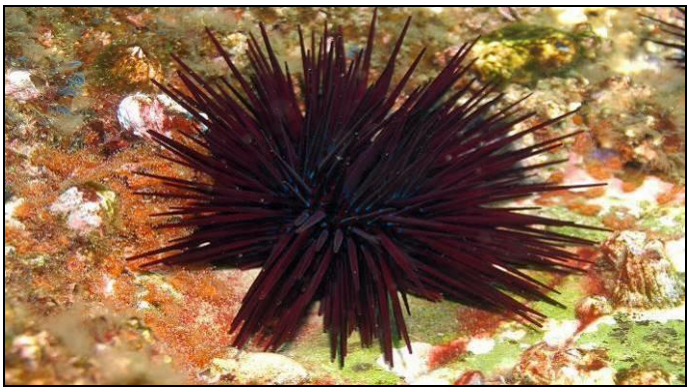


Flattened disc brittle star

Sea urchins



Purple urchin (*Heliocidaris erythrogramma*)



Black urchin (*Centrostephanus rodgersii*)



Eastern slate-pencil urchin
(*Phyllacanthus parvispinus*)



Pink egg urchin
(*Holopneustes purpurascens*)

Sea cucumbers





Sticky sea cucumber (*Leptosynapta dolabrifera*)

Tunicates





Sea squirt/Cunjevoi (*Pyura stolonifera*)



Small orange tunicate (*Herdmania momus?*)



Giant red-lined tunicate (*Herdmania grandis*)



Stalked sea tulip (*Pyura gibbosa*)



Compound ascidian (*Botrylloides leachi?*)



Fan ascidian (*Sycozoa murrayi?*)

Birds



Silver gull (*Larus novaehollandiae*)



Pacific gull (*Larus pacificus*)



Australian pelican (*Pelecanus conspicillatus*)



Crested tern (*Thalasseus bergii*)



White-faced heron (*Egretta novaehollandiae*)



Great cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)



Pied cormorant (*Phalacrocorax varius*)

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The following are excellent sources of information for those interested in reading more about life on local intertidal rocky shores or are needing more comprehensive identification guides.

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