

Key to the Regular Urchins
*modified from original by Jack Word

- 1(2) Spines are hollow.
Centrostephanus coronatus
- 2(1) Spines are not hollow
- 3 (4) Periproct with four, sometimes five, large plates that act like valves on the central anus.
Arbacia incisa
- 4(3) Periproct not as above, but with many small plates and a few large plates.
- 5(7) Ambulacral plates of test each with a single primary spine and no secondary spines.
- 6 Spines are short, thick, blunt, and dark in color. Color of test is dark gray. In juveniles, the test is rose-colored, purple, or violet -- these colors are soon replaced by gray.
Lytechinus pictus
- 7(5) Ambulacral plates of test have a primary spine and several secondary spines.
- 8(9) Test is flattened dorsal-ventrally.
Allocentrotus fragilis
- 9 (8) Test is not flattened dorsal-ventrally.
- 10(11) Spines are long and have a reddish tinge.
Strongylocentrotus franciscanus
- 11(10) Spines are short and have a purplish tinge.
Strongylocentrotus purpuratus