

Phylum Echinodermata  
Class Asteroidea  
Order Forcipulatida  
Family Asteriidae

***Pisaster giganteus capitatus***

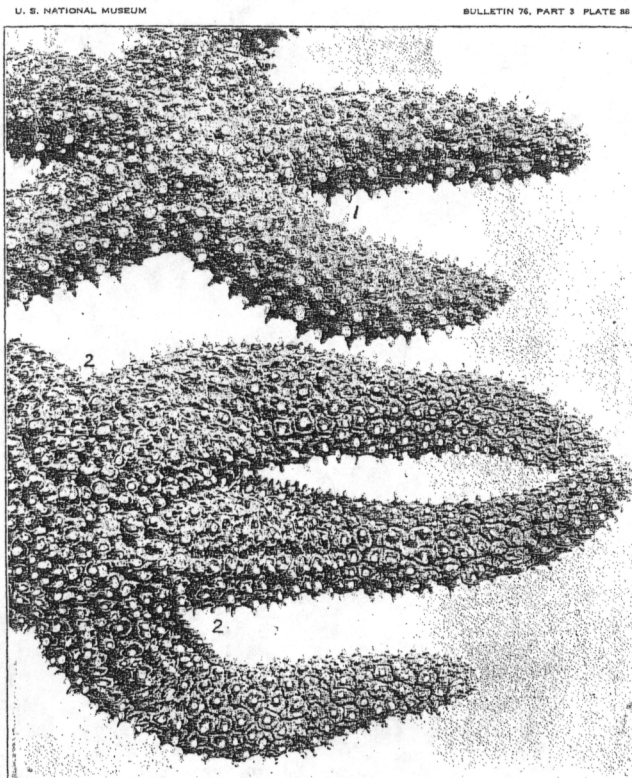
**Coloration:** Blue cushions

**Number of Arms:** Five Rays

**Defining Characteristics:**

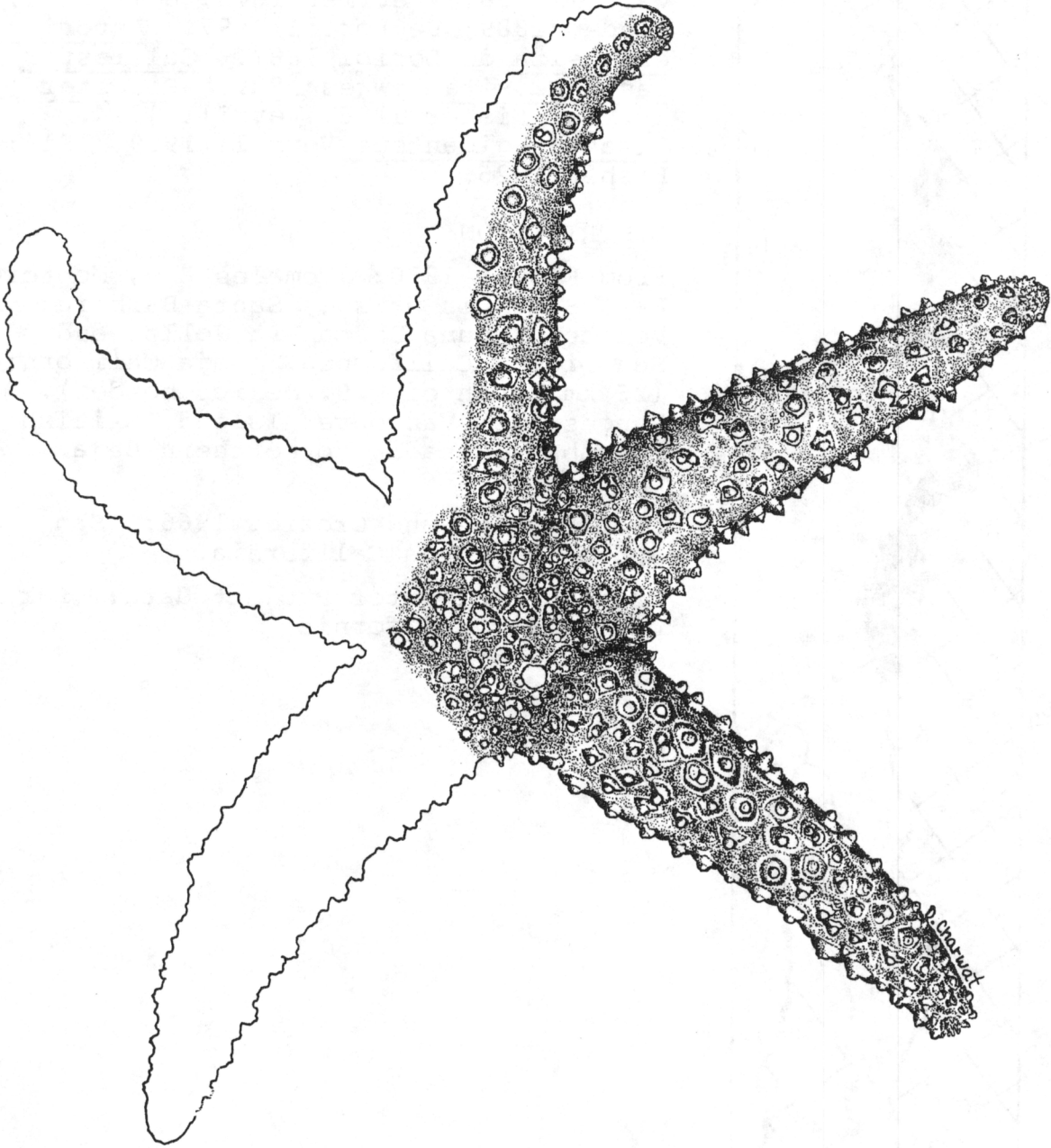
- Large crossed pedicellariae
- Very few furcate pedicellariae
- Spines are wide w/wide but flat surrounding cushions
- Large chunky sea star
- Lots of texture
- Broad nodules on dorsal side w/ balls on top, surrounded by circular pattern of skin
- Arms cleaved sharply
- Inflated disk
- Club shaped spines
- Firm and hard texture

**Illustration**



PISASTER GIGANTEUS CAPITATUS

Pisaster giganteus (Stimpson 1857)



Pisaster giganteus (Stimpson 1857)

SYNONYMS

Asterias gigantea Stimpson 1857; Verrill 1867. Asterias lutkeni Stimpson 1862; Verrill 1867; Perrier 1875; Bell 1881; Sladen 1889; De Loriol 1897. Asterias exquisita de Loriol 1887. Calliasterias exquisita Fewkes 1889. Pisaster lutkeni Fisher 1908; Verrill 1914. Pisaster giganteus Verrill 1909, 1914; Fisher 1926.

DISTRIBUTION

From Fisher 1930: Tomales Bay, Monterey Bay, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Venice, Laguna Beach, La Jolla, and San Diego, California. Baja California (26 km south of U.S./Mexico border). Ranges from Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada, to northern Baja California.

From Hopkins and Crozier 1966: San Pablo Bay, Baja California.

From Coastal Water Project data: Paradise Cove, California.

