

# Taxonomic criteria for the identification of the following ophiuroid groupings:

NOTE: All ophiuroids are separated and dried in sample trays, no matter how small the organism. The animals are best viewed with over-head light. When dry, these animals are very light and can be easily lost with a single breath while leaning over the trays.

## Identification Criteria

**Ophiurioidea:** Oral papillae are not yet developed. Only a triangle formation for the jaw structure is present. These animals are the tiniest in the bunch, extra care and attention are needed.

**Amphiuridae:** The oral papillae are not yet formed but the jaw has bifurcated. These are also very small animals.

### **Amphiodia sp.:**

For small individuals: The oral papillae are formed but the distinguishing species level characters are not yet visible or developed. Typically disk sizes under 10 mm are questionable. It just depends on the individual and the expression of characters.

For larger individuals: Character loss (missing legs or missing disk) can prevent the identification from moving forward.