

Phylum Echinodermata
Class Asteroidea
Order Forcipulatida
Family Asteriidae

Pisaster brevispinus

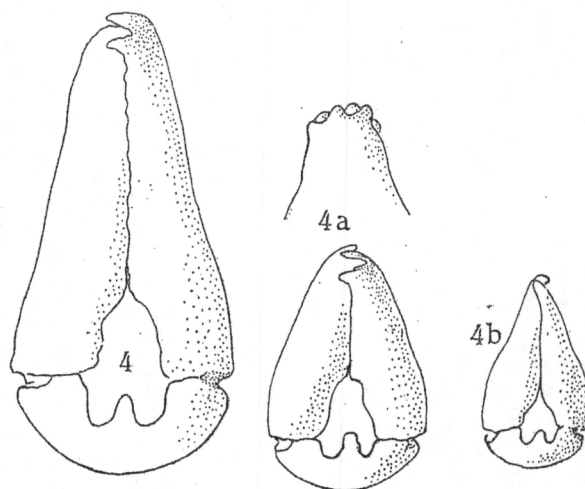
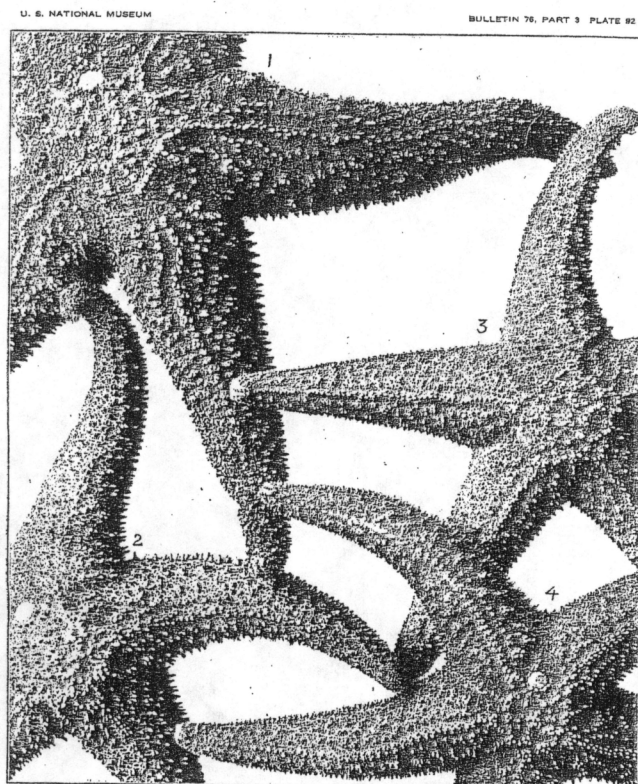
Coloration: Rose-pink in color, variegated w/gray-green or maroon-purple

Number of Arms: Five Rays

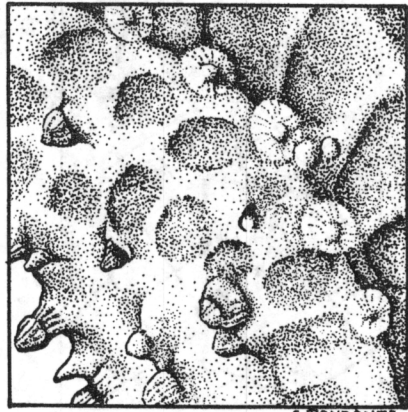
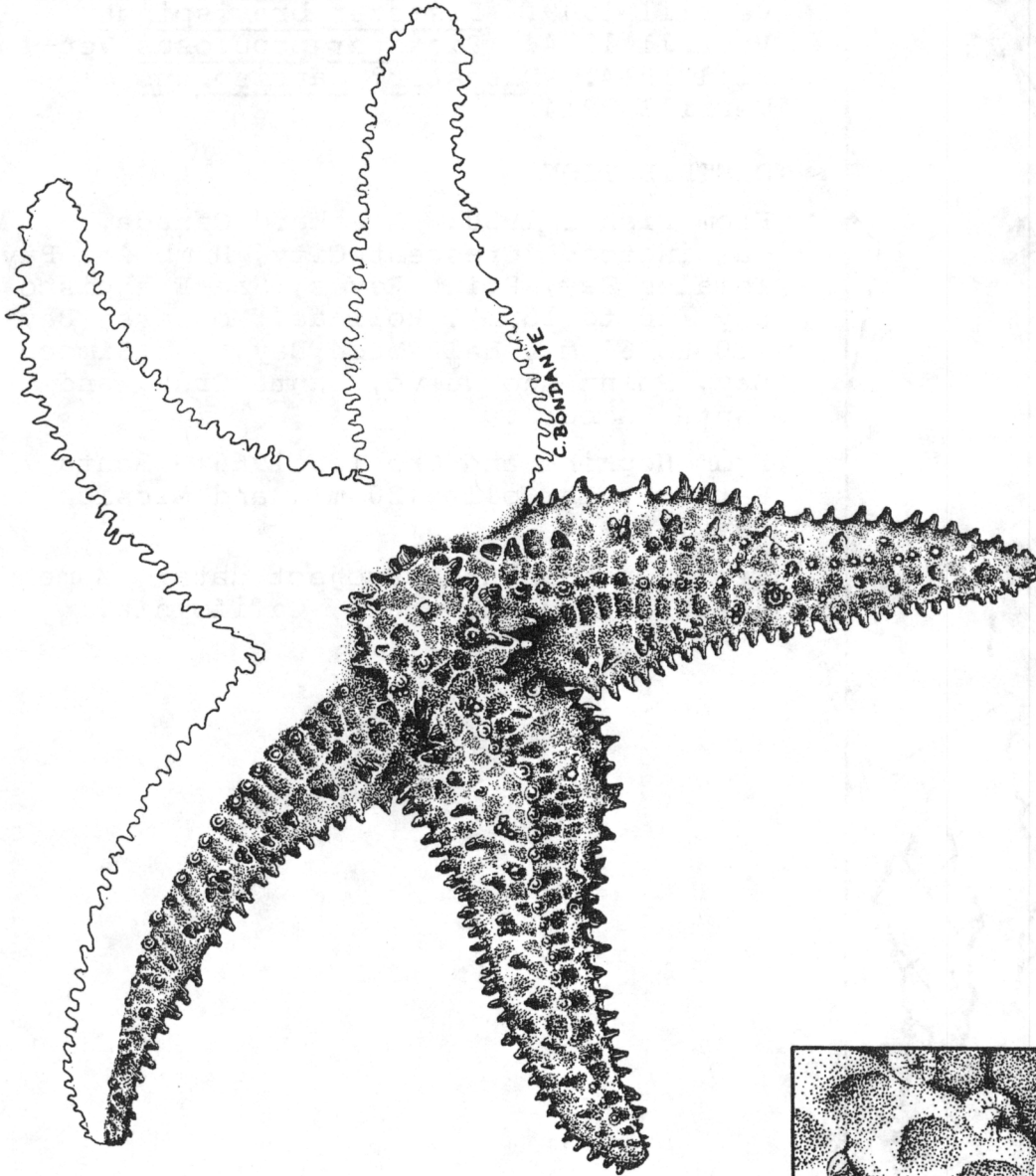
Defining Characteristics:

- Dorsal spines do not form a reticulated pattern, spines are single or in small groups
- Pedicellariae are furcate (split in two parts)
- Upper margin of jaw smooth, not crenulate (scalloped)
- Large chunky sea star
- Lots of texture
- Center of each ray has a raised row of spines
- Arms cleaved sharply
- Inflated disk
- Open depressions between spines on dorsal surface
- Soft and squishy texture

Illustration



Pisaster brevispinus (Stimpson 1857)



Closeup of aboral spines.

Pisaster brevispinus (Stimpson 1857)

SYNONYMS

Asterias brevispina Stimpson 1857.
Asterias paucispina Stimpson 1862; Perrier 1875. Asterias (Pisaster) papulosa Verrill 1909. Pisaster brevispinus Verrill 1914. Pisaster papulosus Verrill 1914. Pisaster? paucispinus Verrill 1914.

DISTRIBUTION

From Fisher 1930: Alaska. Canada. Washington. Crescent City, Humboldt Bay, Tomales Bay, Point Reyes, San Francisco Bay (10 to 15 m), Bolinas, Monterey Bay (10 to 60 m), Half Moon Bay, San Simeon Bay, Point Ano Nuevo, Santa Cruz, and Santa Barbara.

From Hopkins and Crozier 1966: Santa Barbara, La Jolla (20 m), and Mission Bay (10 m).

From Coastal Water Project data: Zuma Beach and Palos Verdes, California.

