

Asterias forbesi

Forbes' seastar
Common sea star

Native to Maine

Coastal
Rocky Intertidal, Littoral

Body Size and Shape



Wikimedia user Paul Morris

Forbes seastars are usually 5 cm to 15cm in diameter and have five arms, occasionally found with 4-7 arms. The arms are thick at the base, tapering to a blunt, round point. They have many prominent spines.



Vital Signs user 000037

Dorsal Side

Your Photo here!

We need a picture of the filter plate of *Asterias forbesi* for this identification card. Please take a clear photo of the sea star and send it to:

vitalsigns@gmri.org

It has a pink or orange filter plate (a small hard circular plate called a madreporite) and many prominent spines on the top side, or dorsal surface.

Researched by: Caroline Casals

Help us improve this species card! Contact us with your updates.

Full View



Flicker user Ken-Ichi

Look for a five armed sea star with prominent spines. Its color ranges from dark brown or green-brown to pinkish or orange.

Oral Side



Vital Signs user sniffly salamander

The edges of the arms have a prominent row of spines. There are many tube feet on the bottom, arranged in loose rows. The underside is paler than the top.

Similar Species

The Northern seastar is very similar in appearance to Forbes' seastar, as they are in the same genus. The Northern seastar has smaller spines, lacks an orange or pink filter plate, and has tube feet in rows of four, with a much more prominent row of spines down each arm.

Did You Know?

Despite a round shape, sea stars move in a straight line. It is believed that they locate prey, or sense danger mostly through smell. Maine is the northern extent of Forbes' sea star's range.