

Asterias rubens

Native to Maine

Northern sea star

Coastal
Rocky Intertidal, Littoral

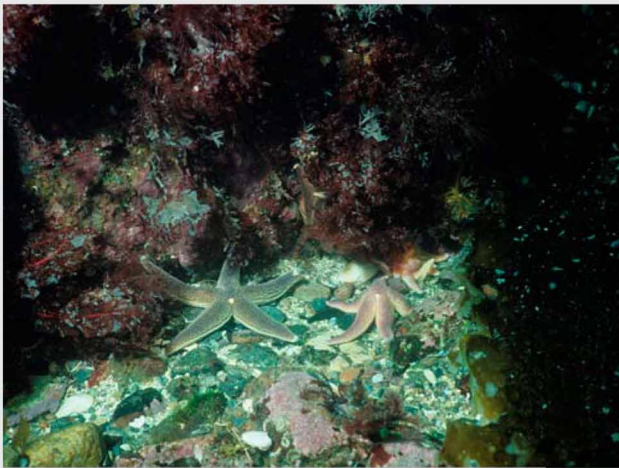
Body Size and Shape



Wikimedia user Aldaron



Look for a 5 armed seastar with a distinct line of short spines down the center of each arm. The arms are connected to a small disk, with a broad base tapering to a round point.



Flicker user Havspappan



Full View



Vital Signs user msk_seastar4



Color varies greatly from pinkish, to greenish or even to a deep purple. Size varies greatly based on age, from 9mm - 30cm in diameter. Individuals have rarely have 4-7 arms.

Oral Side



Vital Signs user msk_seastar4



The underside of the sea star has tube feet that are arranged in rows of 4 down the center of each arm.

Dorsal Side

Your Photo here!

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

vitalsigns@gmri.org

There is one prominent row of spines down the top center of each arm. Near the center of the top-side of the seastar is a pale, off-white color filter plate (madreporite).

Similar Species

Forbes' seastar is in the same genus as Northern seastar, and can be easily confused. Forbes has bigger spines and lacks the central line of spines down each arm.

Did You Know?

Sea stars have an interesting way of eating. They push their stomachs outside their body and into the shell of their dinner!