

Some Echinoderms - test

by Bruno

Index

Index / 2

About Antarctic Field Guides / 3

Species / 4

Astrotoma agassizii Lyman, 1875 - 4
Acodontaster conspicuus (Koehler, 1920) - 5
Notocrinus virilis Mortensen, 1917 - 6

About Antarctic Field Guides

About the project

The Antarctic Field Guides is a collaborative tool offering free access to information that can help you identify Antarctic organisms. Thanks to the initial efforts from Prof. Andrew Clarke (British Antarctic Survey) and Dr Stefano Schiaparelli (University of Genoa and Italian National Antarctic Museum), it allows users to build a tailor-made, customized guide, to be taken in the field or simply browsed. The pages are generated on-the-fly from the contents of authoritative, quality controlled data resources ([SCAR-MarBIN](#) and [ANTABIF](#)), and ensures the user to access up-to-date information about the group of organisms he/she is particularly interested in. Even if the primary focus is for scientists, the AFGs are open and free for all to enjoy.

About the data and its usage

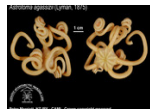
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Scientific name

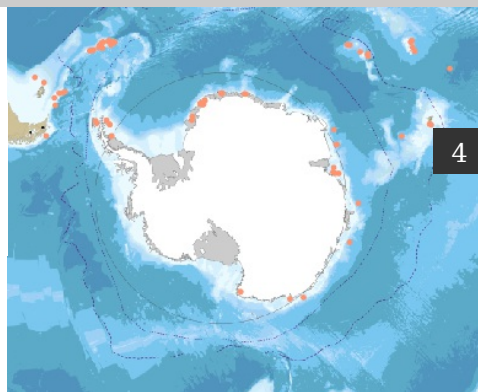
Astrotoma agassizii Lyman, 1875

Animalia Echinodermata Ophiuroidea Euryalida Gorgonocephalidae Astrotoma



Description

Astrotoma agassizii, the large brittle star belonging to the suborder Euryalina, has long, flexible, and mobile arms that use to capture the prey from the water column.



4

Distribution info

Astrotoma agassizii is found throughout the Southern Ocean in depths of 70-1000 m (Bernasconi & Dâ€™Agostino, 1977) and occurs irregularly on the shelves of sub-Antarctic islands and the Antarctic continent (Ferrari & Dearborn, 1989). Along the Chilean margin between Chiloe (42° S) and the Strait of Magellan. On the South Atlantic to North (39°) off Argentina Coast; Tierra del Fuego; Falklands, South Georgia and Shag Rocks Islands; Antarctic region (Tierra de Graham, Ross Sea, Haakon VII Sea; Tierra Adelia, Reina Marâ, Mac Robertson and Enderby) (Castro Manso, 2010).

Ecology

The analysis of the stomach contents showed that the diet consisted of members of only two major taxa, Crustacea and Chaetognatha. Copepods occurred in 75.6% of brittle stars containing food and were the dominant prey group, followed by mysids (34.6%), chaetognaths (10.2%), and euphausiids (8.9%). Other prey included unidentified crustacean and organic remains, ostracodes, and amphipods. *Euchaeta antarctica* and *Calanoides acutus* constituted about 80% of the stomach content copepods (Dearborn et al. 1986).

Scientific name

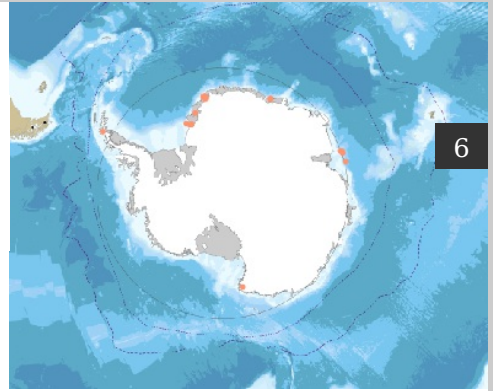
Acodontaster conspicuus (Koehler, 1920)

Animalia Echinodermata Asteroidea Valvatida Odontasteridae Acodontaster



Description

5 arms. Colour varies but is generally pale orange to brownish, and fairly large (up to 30cm across)



Distribution info

0 to 761 m (mostly below 30m) from Sub-Antarctica and South Georgia to the Antarctic Peninsula and Continent.

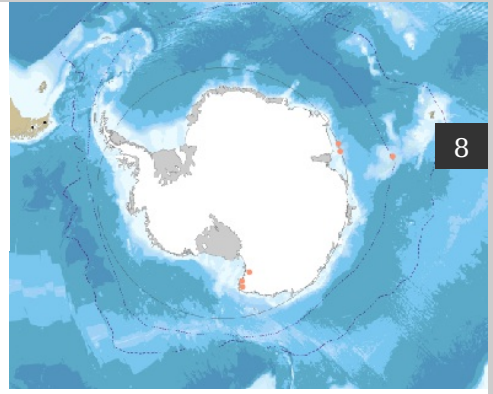
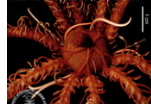
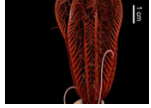
Ecology

Feeds on various sponges including glass sponges and the slimy sponge *Mycale acerata*; a relatively fast growing sponge which could dominate sponge communities if not regulated by predation from *Acodontaster conspicuus* and from another seastar, *Perknaster fuscus*. *Acodontaster conspicuus* is itself known to be preyed upon by the worm *Parbolasia corrugatus*, the anemone *Urticinopsis antarcticus* and the much smaller seastar *Odontaster validus*, which will attack as a gang, after the initial solo assault. Predation by *O. validus* probably keeps *Acodontaster* populations under control.

Scientific name

Notocrinus virilis Mortensen, 1917

Animalia Echinodermata Crinoidea Comatulida Notocrinidae Notocrinus



8