

IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

LONGSPINED SEA URCHIN

Longspined sea urchins (*Centrostephanus rodgersii*) are an invasive range extending species that are moving southward into Tasmanian waters. Their grazing of kelp beds in high numbers has caused a shift from healthy, biodiverse reefs to desolate urchin barrens. This significantly threatens Tasmania's rocky reefs.



Did you know?

Tasmania is home to a native sea urchin species that bears a striking resemblance to the invasive longspined sea urchin (*Centrostephanus rodgersii*).

Spot the difference!

Learn how to differentiate the invasive longspined sea urchin from its native counterpart.

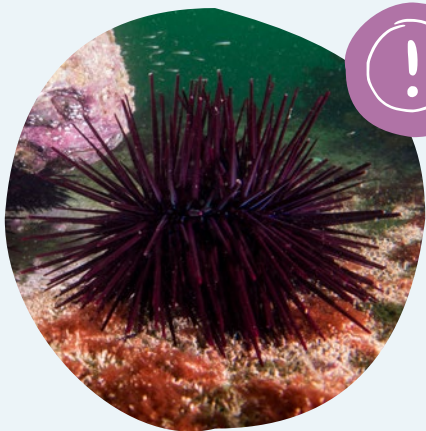


Image: John Turnbull

LONGSPINED SEA URCHIN (*CENTROSTEPHANUS RODGERSII*)

- Black/purple/brown spines with a subtle green iridescence
- Spines are hollow and long
- Body (test) can range from deep red to black in colour and reach up to 13.3cm in diameter

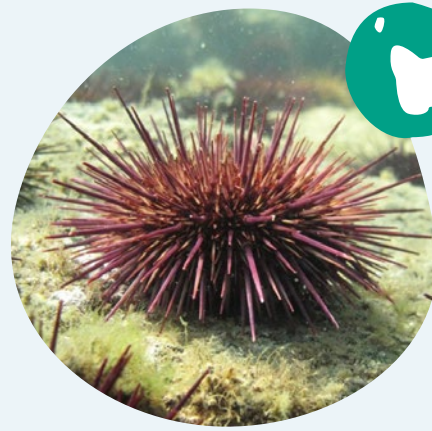


Image: Reef Life Survey

NATIVE SHORTSPINED SEA URCHIN (*HELIOCIDARIS ERYTHROGRAMMA*)

- Can be purple, pale green or white - or a combination. Their spines can be a different colour to their body/test
- Spines are solid and generally shorter than the longspined sea urchin
- Body (test) can reach up to 12.5cm in diameter