

Aggregating Anemone



INVERTEBRATE

Anthopleura elegantissima

diet: amphipods, isopods, small fish and crabs

size: about 60mm (2.5 in) across to 80mm (3 in)

Habitat: Rocky Shores - at Haystack Rock blanketing boulders and rocks in intertidal area.

Related to: Jellies and other anemones.

*Soft-bodied, plant-like animal. Stinging cells called nematocysts on purplish-pink tentacles attach to prey to paralyze. These animals prefer to colonize in masses of same genetically identical individuals (clones). They develop specialized club-like stinging cells called **accorhagi** to defend their “neighborhood”. They can also reproduce sexually to insure genetic diversity.*

Fun Fact: Go dormant for up to 3 months if covered by sand.