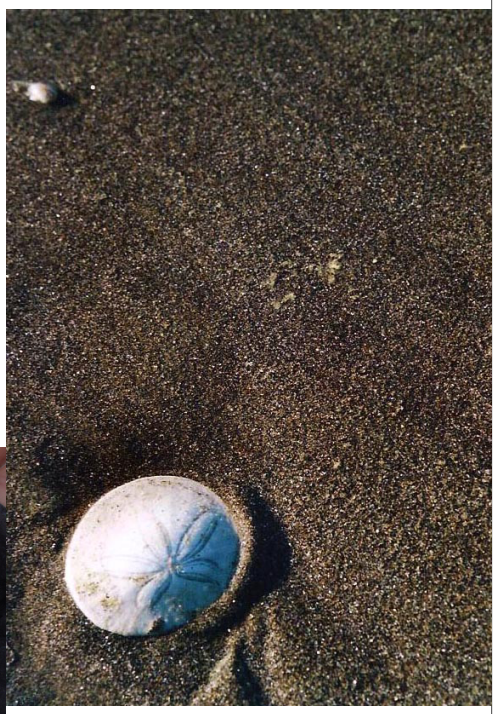
Eccentric Sand Dollar



INVERTEBRATE

Dendraster excentricus

diet: detritus (small particles of dead matter)

size: about 10cm (4 in) across

Habitat: Lives on sandy bottom in large groups. Rarely found alive in our tidepools, mostly found dead strewn on beach during extreme low tides.
Related to: Urchins, Sea Stars and Sea Cucumbers

These flattened cousins of urchins have a hard test (shell) that is purplish-grey and covered in soft spines and tube feet when alive. The petal pattern on the top is for respiration and on the reverse side, located in the center is the mouth and the anus is located just to the edge on the oral side.

Fun Fact: they typically live about 15 years