

Basket star in the eastern Johor Straits

Subject: Basket star, *Euryale aspera* (Echinodermata: Ophiuroidea: Euryalidae).

Subject identified by: Ron K. H. Yeo.

Location, date and time: Eastern Johor Straits, Beting Bronok, north of Pulau Tekong; 13 July 2014; 0610 hrs.

Habitat: Marine. Reef flat, exposed at low tide.

Observer: Contributors.

Observation: An example of about 30 cm diameter (Fig. 1) was found with its oral surface facing upwards on a muddy-sandy bottom next to some rocks and sponges, at low tide.

Remarks: The basket star is seldom observed in intertidal areas in Singapore. While the contributors have seen several specimens previously in local waters, this is the first time that a specimen over 20 cm in diameter is observed in an intertidal area. This species can be identified by the conspicuous high tubercles on the aboral surface of its disc and the arms (Fig. 2; see Clark & Rowe, 1971).

Reference: Clark, A. M. & F. W. E. Rowe, 1971. *Monograph of Shallow-water Indo-West Pacific Echinoderms*. Trustees of the British Museum (Natural History), London. viim + 238 pp, 31 pls.



Fig. 1. The basket star on the reef flat with its oral surface facing upwards. Photograph by Ron K. H. Yeo

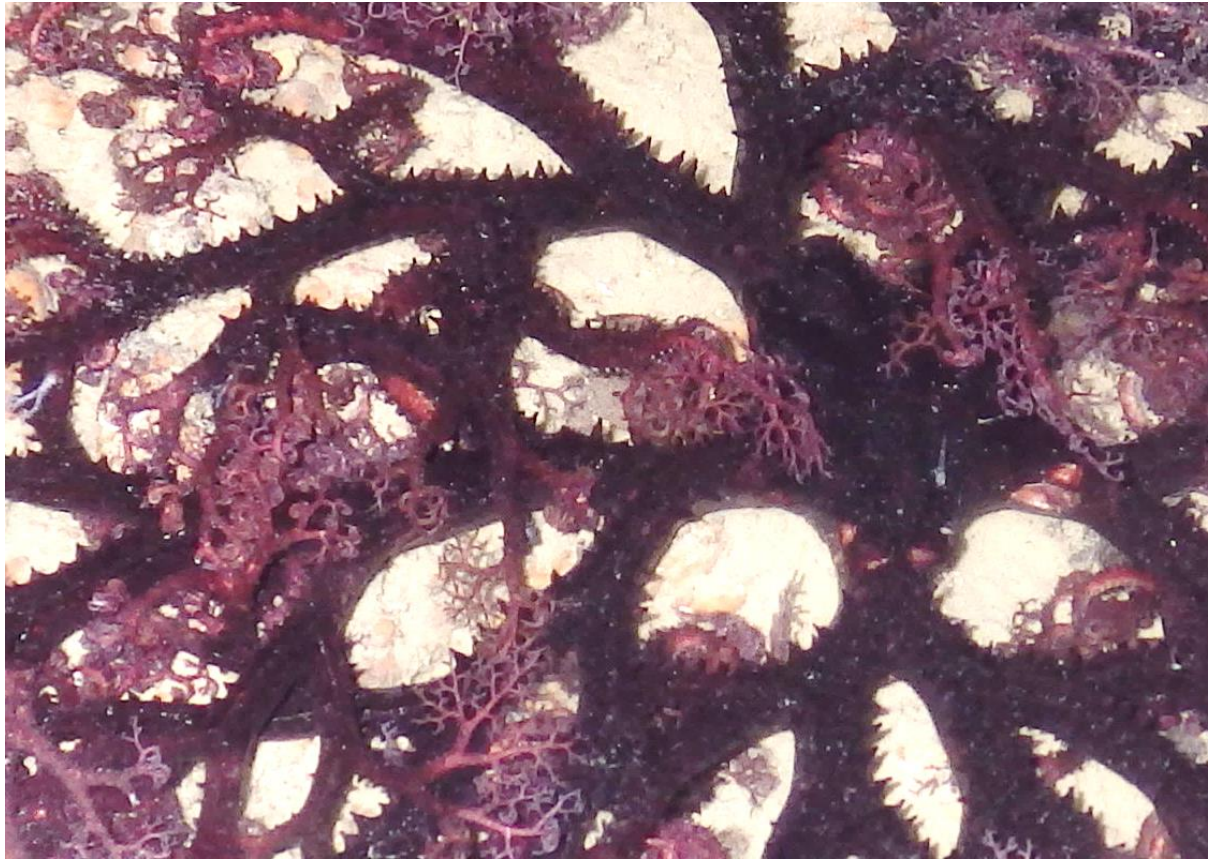


Fig. 2. Close-up view of the aboral surface of the basket star showing the conspicuous high tubercles. Photograph by Ron K. H. Yeo

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