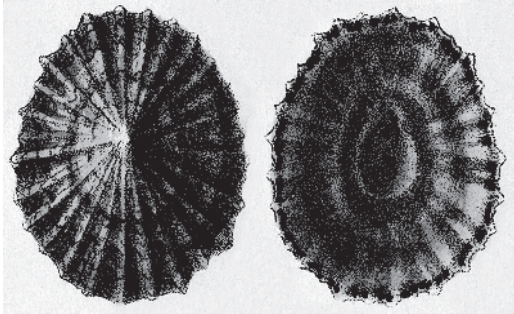


Jersey's Living Coast: On the Rocks

Not all animals hide themselves when the tide goes out. Some prefer to tough it out by clinging to the outside of rocks. Many such animals are small and possess a hard shell to protect them from the weather and from predators. Most may be found on the middle and lower shore, especially in shaded locations.



LIMPETS

(*Patella vulgata*); 6 cm

Several species of limpet may be found on Jersey's shores but this is the largest and most common. Limpets use a strong muscular foot to cling to the rock surface. They mould the edge of their shell to one particular place and so should not be dislodged. Limpets were once eaten by people, especially during hard times, but they are chewy and nowadays generally avoided.



BREADCRUMB SPONGE

(*Halichondria panicea*); 20 cm

This brightly-coloured sponge may be found in sheltered gullies and crevices on the lower shore. Breadcrumb sponges are filter-feeders which form low, wide encrusting sheets across the rocks. Most sponges are ecosystems in their own right and will be home to many other species of invertebrate. As such they should not be handled roughly or disturbed.



BARNACLES

(*Semibalanus balanoides*); 1 cm

Barnacles are abundant on Jersey's rocky coasts and several species may be found but the commonest is *Semibalanus balanoides* thousands of which may coat exposed rocks from the upper shore downwards. Barnacles are crustaceans and so are related to crabs and lobsters.



KEELWORM

(*Pomatoceros lamarcki*); 3 cm

One of a number of tubeworm species on Jersey's rocky shores. The long, hard calcareous tube protects the worm's soft body. The worm emerges from the tube to feed on small particles of food. Tubeworms are very strong and would attach themselves to ships' keels, slowing them down. They often share their tubes with small crustaceans or molluscs.



BRYOZOANS

(*Electra pilosa* plus numerous species) 5 cm

Bryozoans are easily overlooked but they may be found in large numbers growing on rocks and seaweeds. Bryozoans usually form flattened, dense colonies that are made up hundreds of small cellular animals known as zooids. There are around forty species known from Jersey but most are very small and you will need a microscope to identify them properly.