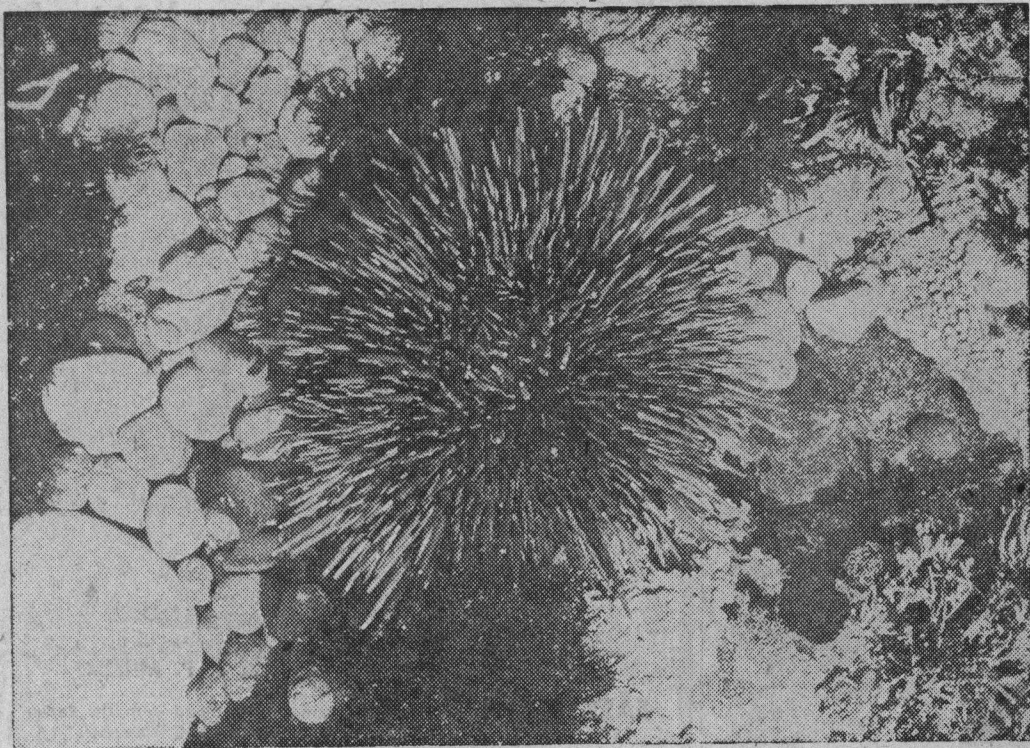


## Sea Urchin Is Hardy Creature



### Along The Trail

by

ken legg

My first experience with a sea urchin was a rather sharp one. I was swimming near Hawaii when I stepped on the spiny creature. Since the tropical species have poison glands, the injury proved to be very painful. We tried to pick the spines out as one would remove a splinter, but they were brittle and kept breaking. Finally the spines worked themselves out, but the incident has never been forgotten.

Sea urchins are those round objects which look like pincushions that we find along the ocean with starfishes, crabs and other small animals. Two kinds, the purple and the red, are common in California. The purple is by far the more abundant; the red urchins are found in deeper water and are seen only when the tide is low.

In soft granite rock urchins are found living in pockets which, it would seem, they have excavated. Some naturalists believe the animals make these holes by a turning motion. However, it is probably done by the water swirling in the pockets. The animal may assist in some way but it is doubtful if the sensitive spines are capable of wearing away rock.

The outer covering of an urchin is known as a test, although most of us are inclined to think of it as a shell. As these tests grow, the animals often become imprisoned in these holes in the rock.

Having seen live purple urchins we may not associate the skeletons of dead urchins as once having belonged to these animals. The test is round, with a hole in the top. It is more fragile than shell and is usually green or white.

Sea urchins are related to starfish; structurally they have certain things in common. Foremost

among these is their method of locomotion. Tube feet, or suction-like organs, are used by both animals as methods of movement.

The spines on urchins are attached to the test by means of a ball and socket joint. As I have watched these spines moving, I have had the impression of turret guns training on a target.

Unlike starfish, urchins have effective teeth, as well as jaws. Plant material is the principal food. When animal matter can be found this also is consumed, but they are not capable of capturing or overcoming animals other than very small ones.

The starfishes apparently respect urchins only as potential food and aside from man, are probably the greatest enemy of urchins. At times, the urchin, by means of his spines, is able to hold a starfish off, but usually, after losing all his spines, the urchin loses the fight.

By some people, sea urchins are considered to be very good food. The entire soft body is removed from the test and eaten raw. Other people appreciate the urchin as a colorful part of the intriguing ocean scene. I have seen huge beds of these beautiful creatures growing and living in such closeness as to cover the entire ocean floor with a purple carpet.

#### JAYNE WILL GET DEFAULT DIVORCE

Hollywood (P).—Bosomy actress Jayne Mansfield said yesterday she would get a default divorce Tuesday from Paul J. Mansfield. Mansfield, a Dallas, Tex., public relations man, had filed a countersuit last March alleging that she was not a fit and proper person to have custody of their 5-year-old daughter, Jayne Marie.

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The sea urchin above is related to the starfish which shows little family love—it will eat the urchin when it has a chance, but the urchin fights back with its sharp spines as long as they hold out. The urchin also can be annoying to the bare feet of curious bathers who may wonder what it feels like to step on one.

#### Brownie Troop 70 Has Meeting

Candi Keim was invested as a new member at Thursday's meeting of Brownie Troop 70 at the Trinity Presbyterian church.

Newly elected officers including Patty Nuss, president, Lisa Ann Green, secretary, and Mary Ann Smith, treasurer, took charge of the meeting.

During the session the 20 Brownies, who attend third grade at Branciforte elementary school, received star pins signifying one year of membership.

Plans were made for a Halloween party October 29 to be at the home of the leader, Mrs. Ernest Roman, 1136 North Branciforte avenue.

Co-leaders of the troop are Mrs. Alcott Westberg and Mrs. Pat Keim.

Bananas grow upward on the plant. The bunches are hung upside down in stores so they can be cut easily.

