



dangerous creatures

sea urchins

Distribution

Coastal marine and estuarine environments worldwide – often in rock crevices.

Size and appearance

Sea urchins are small, circular, radially symmetrical animals (3-10cm in diameter) covered in venomous sharp spines 1-20cm in length. Sea urchins are typically black and dull shades of green, olive, brown, purple, and red. They move using hundreds of tiny, transparent, adhesive tube feet.

Symptoms and signs

Sea urchins cause painful puncture wounds that may develop redness and swelling. Spines may break off in the wound and there may be profuse bleeding.

First aid

1. Provide emergency care if required.
2. Control bleeding with pressure and elevation.
3. Immerse the affected area in hot water – as hot as the rescuer can stand with their elbow.
4. Rest and reassure the patient.
5. Oxygen therapy may be required.
6. Seek medical aid – the spine may need to be removed surgically and tetanus immunisation given.

How to avoid them

- Look but don't touch.
- Be careful when fossicking through rock pools.
- Wear sturdy shoes when walking around tidal pools and across mud flats.

Did you know?

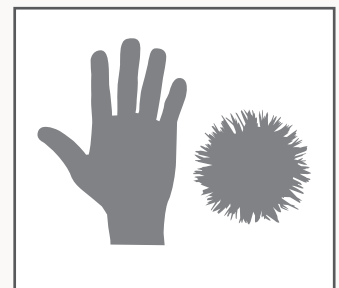
- The name urchin was derived from the Old English word for the round spiny hedgehogs sea urchins resemble.



Temnopleurus alexandri



Distribution in Australian waters



Size relative to human



For additional information visit www.stingstabstrike.com