

Product Reference

Echinoderms

Echinoderms are marine invertebrates within the phylum Echinodermata.

Common echinoderms include sea cucumbers, sea stars, sea urchins and New Zealand Kina (primarily imported for their roe). They are imported for human consumption and souvenirs and do not require an import permit.

Identification of echinoderms:

- Sea cucumbers; found worldwide, sea cucumbers are primarily imported dried. They have spiny skin and may be a variety of colours, however they are most regularly seen as black-brown.



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- Sea stars (starfish); star shaped and come in a variety of sizes and colours. They are not often imported for human consumption, however may be imported for decorative purposes or as collectables.



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- Sea urchins; round globular shaped animals typically covered in spines. The shell is considered biosecurity risk material. The reproductive organs of some sea urchins are imported for human consumption. The reproductive gonads are also known as roe. The roe is considered to be non-viable once it has been removed from the shell.

'Kina' are sea urchin found in New Zealand. The roe of Kina are often imported into Australia from New Zealand for human consumption. The roe is a vibrant orange/yellow colour in appearance.



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Product Reference

Cnidarians

Cnidarians are aquatic invertebrates within the phylum Cnidaria.

Cnidarians include sea anemones, sea corals and jellyfish.

They are imported for human consumption or decorative purposes. They must not be used for animal consumption, as a bio remedial agent or fertiliser, for growing purposes or for veterinary therapeutic use.

Identification of cnidarians:

- Sea anemones are primarily identifiable by their array of tentacles and often bright colours. Some species may be used for human consumption and would appear firmer in texture and less vibrant in colour.



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- Sea corals are formed by groups of identical polyps and often characterised by their hard exoskeleton. They come in a wide variety of shapes, colours and sizes and are more often imported for decorative purposes.



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- Jellyfish are often imported as a dried processed product for human consumption. They are most commonly imported as a whole round dried disk-like product, or as thin pale dried slices.



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Product Reference

Tunicates

Tunicates are marine invertebrates within the phylum Chordata.

They are most commonly known as sea squirts and some species can be eaten raw, cooked or processed.

Identification of tunicates:

- The bodies of tunicates are surrounded by a 'tunic', giving them a smooth, rounded outer appearance.
- They generally have two siphons extending from the tunic



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Product Reference

Poriferans

Poriferans are aquatic invertebrates within the phylum Porifera.

Poriferans are most commonly known as sea sponges and are often imported as natural sponges for personal use, as both a cleaning product and a beauty product.

Identification of poriferans:

- The external surface of poriferans are covered in tiny pores which act as feeding filters
- The internal structure consists of a series of tunnels and canals, giving the structure a “sponge-like” appearance
- The hardness or softness of poriferans depends on the species. Demosponges have soft skeletons and are the most common sponge type used as natural sponges.



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