

FIELD KEY TO *LUIDIA* SPECIES FROM THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BIGHT

- 1a. Reddish aborally, white on oral surface; inferomarginal spines relatively long ($\approx 1/3$ arm width); animal flimsy, like wet felt *Luidia asthenosoma*
- 1b. Aboral color subdued, greyish to purplish brown; yellowish white, dirty white or cream on oral surface; inferomarginal spines less than $1/4$ arm width, animal substantial, somewhat stiff 2
- 2a. Aboral surface of rays and disk mottled with blotchy white, purplish and light brown areas consisting of a few to many paxillae; oral surface dirty white to cream . . . *Luidia armata*
- 2b. Aboral surface of rays and disk nearly uniform greyish, with only occasional cream colored individual paxillae; oral surface yellowish white *Luidia foliolata*

LABORATORY KEY FOR CONFIRMATION OF *LUIDIA* FIELD IDENTIFICATIONS

- 1a. Marginal paxillae of aboral surface stellate; with slightly convex oval tabulum bearing about thirty slender denticulate spinelets *Luidia asthenosoma*
- 1b. Marginal paxillae of aboral surface quadrate; with flat rectangular tabulum bearing numerous flattened granular spinelets 2
- 2a. Actinial intermediate plate, inferomarginal plate, and lateral intermediate plates (paxillae) with pedicellariae *Luidia armata*
- 2b. Actinial intermediate plate, inferomarginal plate, and lateral intermediate plates (paxillae) lacking pedicellariae *Luidia foliolata*