

Phylum Echinodermata  
Class Asteroidea  
Order Forcipulatida  
Family Asteriidae

***Rathbunaster californicus***

**Coloration:** Pinkish-orange, bright highlighted colors

**Number of Arms:** Seventeen Rays

**Defining Characteristics:**

- Central disk small and flat
- Rays long and slender
- Long spines on margins of arms
- Large chunky sea star
- Arms constricted at both ends, wider in the middle
- Disk almost looks separate
- Arms cleaved sharply
- Round bulbous masses on arms
- Spongy in appearance
- Crossed and straight pedicellariae

**Illustration**

