

## Echinodiscus

### Classification :

Kingdom : Animalia  
Phylum : Echinodermata  
Class : Echinoidea  
Order : Clypeasteroidea  
Family : Atrypidae  
Genus : Echinodiscus



For further details, [Link](#)

### Characteristics :

- Echinodiscus are a genus of sand dollars, characterized by their flattened, disc-shaped, and often bilaterally notched tests (shells) covered in fine spines. They are benthic, deposit-feeding organisms, inhabiting fine sandy areas, typically inshore and around river mouths.
- **Appearance:** They are flat, disc-shaped, with a test (shell) that is typically broader than long and features two open lunules (holes) in the posterior paired ambulacra.
- **Spines:** The test is covered with fine, movable spines that may have a maroon or purplish-brown color, bleaching to white when the animal dies and is washed ashore.
- **Oral Features:** The peristome (mouth) is located on the oral (underside) side, slightly anterior, while the periproct (anus) is in the posterior inter ambulacrum.
- **Genital Pores:** They possess four genital pores, and unlike some echinoderms, they do not have dark-colored spines.

### Habitat and Distribution

- **Geographic Range:** Echinodiscus is widely distributed throughout the Indo-West Pacific region, from the Red Sea and SE Arabia to India, the Bay of Bengal, and the East Indies, extending to the Philippines and Australia.

- **Benthic and Inshore:** As benthic (bottom-dwelling) organisms, they are found on the sea floor.
- **Fine Sandy Areas:** Their primary habitat consists of fine sandy bottoms, often found in shallow, inshore areas near river mouths.
- **Depth Range:** They inhabit shallow waters, with a depth range extending down to approximately 5 meters.

### **Habit (Behavior)**

- **Benthic:** They are bottom-dwelling organisms, spending their lives on or within the seafloor.
- **Deposit Feeding:** Echinodiscus are deposit feeders, meaning they ingest sediment and extract organic matter from it.
- **Burrowing:** Their flattened body shape and fine spines are adapted for burrowing into the sand to find food and avoid predation.

### **Interesting Fact :**

- **Keyhole Sand Dollar:** Echinodiscus is a genus of sand dollars that includes species like *Echinodiscus bisperforatus*, also known as the keyhole sand dollar.
- **Habitat and Threats:** This species is restricted to only a few locations and is considered vulnerable due to threats like coastal development, which leads to habitat loss.