

## Murex

### Classification

**Kingdom:** Animalia  
**Phylum:** Mollusca  
**Class:** Gastropoda  
**Subclass:** Caenogastropoda  
**Order:** Neogastropoda  
**Family:** Muricidae  
**Genus:** *Murex*



For Further details [link](#)

### Habit and habitat

**Predators and scavengers:** *Murex* snails are carnivorous, feeding on bivalves (like clams and oysters), other mollusks, and even scavenging on dead fish.

"Oyster drills": Some species, like the oyster drill (*Urosalpinx cinerea*), are known for drilling holes through the shells of bivalves to access their prey.

**Rocky and sandy bottoms:** *Murex* snails are commonly found in nearshore waters, often among rocks or on sandy substrates.

**Intertidal and shallow subtidal zones:** Most species live in these areas, including those with high-energy environments like rocky coasts.

**Coral reefs and rubble:** Some species inhabit areas near coral reefs, often on rubble or sandy bottoms.

### Characteristics

**Shape:** Fusiform (spindle-shaped) or club-shaped, with a tall, acute spire.

**Varices:** Three prominent, spiny varices on the body whorl.

**Spiral Ridges:** Prominent spiral ridges or cords on the shell surface.

**Aperture:** Lenticular (lens-shaped), with a white or light-colored inner lip.

**Siphonal Canal:** A well-developed anterior canal, often long and straight.

**Coloration:** Creamy white, light tan, dark and pale spiral bands, or blue-gray, often with yellowish-brown spines.

**Size:** Can vary significantly, with some species reaching up to 150 mm in length.

**Operculum:** Corneous (horn-like), thin to thick, with a nucleus near the anterior end or midlength.

**Foot:** Moderately long and somewhat truncated anteriorly.

**Siphon:** Moderately short to very long, fleshy.

***Murex trunculus*:** Known for its sturdy shell and potential for producing purple dye.

***Murex trapa*:** Characterized by its long, straight siphonal canal and short spines on the basal half.

***Murex pecten*:** Known for its numerous spines, particularly on the siphonal canal.