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African Coelacanth Ecosystem Programme

Basket star on open reef p. 17, fig. 3D

Dave Pawson (Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History)

Amphiopiura sculptilis p. 93, fig. 71

Astroglymma cf. sculptum p. 66, fig. 43

Didier VandenSpiegel (Royal Museum for Central Africa)

Macrophiothrix demessa p. 260, fig. 263

Macrophiothrix hirsuta cheneyi p. 262, fig. 265

Macrophiothrix longipeda p. 264, fig. 267

Ophiactis savignyi p. 257, fig. 261

Ophiarachnella gorgonia (ventral) p. 141, fig. 129

Ophiomyxa australis p. 152, fig. 141

Ophioplocus imbricatus p. 192, fig. 185

Ophiura kinbergi p. 86, fig. 63

Lara Atkinson (South African Environmental Observation Network)

Ophiecten affinis simulans p. 80, fig. 57

Kerry Sink (South African National Biodiversity Institute)

Astrodendrum capensis p. 65, fig. 41

Tom Schiøtte (Natural History Museum of Denmark)

Amphioplus (Unioplus) falcatus p. 214, fig. 211

Amphiura (Amphiura) grandisquama natalensis p. 230, fig. 229

Amphiura (Amphiura) linearis p. 233, fig. 233

Asterostegus tuberculatus p. 55, fig. 29

Astrocladus africanus p. 60, fig. 35

Ophiactis nidarosiensis p. 251, fig. 255

Ophiolycus dentatus p. 109, fig. 89

Ophiomyxa tenuispina p. 154, fig. 145

Ophionereis vivipara p. 203, fig. 197

Ophioplinthaca sexradia p. 134, fig. 121

Ophioscolex inermis p. 110, fig. 91

Wayne Evans (Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife)

Ophiothrix spp. on soft coral p. 17, fig. 3B

Taxonomic index

The names of the species described in this work are put in bold. The numbers in bold indicate the page where this description starts. Other taxa mentioned throughout the text have also been included, in plain font.

A

<i>Abra alba</i>	13
<i>Acanthophiothrix</i>	275
<i>Amphiactis duplicata</i>	243
AMPHILEPIDIDA.....	333, 335, 242, 24, 188
AMPHILEPIDIDAE	33, 242
<i>Amphilepis</i>	335
<i>Amphilepis mobilis</i>	243
<i>Amphilepis scutata</i>	38, 242 , 243, 335
<i>Amphilimna</i>	192
<i>Amphilimna cribriformis</i>	38, 192 , 193, 194, 334
<i>Amphilimna sexradia</i>	175
<i>Amphilimna sexradiata</i>	175
<i>Amphilimna valida</i>	38, 194 , 195, 196, 334
AMPHILIMNIDAE	33, 192
<i>Amphilycus androphorus</i>	238
<i>Amphilycus scripta</i>	238
<i>Amphiophiothrix demessa</i>	258
<i>Amphiophiura</i>	92
<i>Amphiophiura sculptilis</i>	46, 92 , 93, 315, 332
<i>Amphiophiura trifolium</i>	46, 94 , 95, 332
<i>Amphipholis japonica</i>	217
<i>Amphioplus</i>	206
<i>Amphioplus (Amphioplus) pectinatus</i>	38, 207 , 208, 334
<i>Amphioplus (Lymanella) depressus</i>	38, 208 , 209, 210, 334, 334
<i>Amphioplus (Lymanella) furcatus</i>	38, 210 , 211
<i>Amphioplus (Lymanella) hastatus</i>	208, 210
<i>Amphioplus (Lymanella) integer</i>	38, 211 , 212, 213, 215, 334
<i>Amphioplus (Unioplus) falcatus</i>	38, 213 , 214, 315, 334
<i>Amphioplus falcatus</i>	213, 215
<i>Amphioplus furcatus</i>	210
<i>Amphioplus hastatus</i>	208
<i>Amphioplus integer</i>	211
<i>Amphioplus pectinatus</i>	207
<i>Amphioplus relictus</i>	208
<i>Amphioplus squamata</i>	217
<i>Amphipholis</i>	215
<i>Amphipholis depressa</i>	208
<i>Amphipholis hastate</i>	208
<i>Amphipholis integra</i>	211, 212
<i>Amphipholis kinbergi</i>	217

<i>Amphipholis similis</i>	38, 215 , 216, 334
<i>Amphipholis squamata</i>	38, 202, 217 , 218, 334
<i>Amphipholis strata</i>	39, 219 , 220, 334
<i>Amphiura</i>	205
<i>Amphiura (Amphiura) acutisquama</i>	39, 220 , 221, 222, 334
<i>Amphiura (Amphiura) albella</i>	38, 222 , 223, 334
<i>Amphiura (Amphiura) angularis</i>	39, 224 , 225, 334
<i>Amphiura (Amphiura) atlantica</i>	39, 225 , 224, 334
<i>Amphiura (Amphiura) capensis</i>	39, 227 , 228, 334
<i>Amphiura (Amphiura) grandisquama natalensis</i>	39, 229 , 230, 315, 334
<i>Amphiura (Amphiura) incana</i>	39, 230 , 231, 232, 334
<i>Amphiura (Amphiura) linearis</i>	39, 231 , 232, 233, 315, 334
<i>Amphiura (Amphiura) otteri</i>	39, 234 , 235, 334
<i>Amphiura (Amphiura) simonsi</i>	39, 235 , 236, 334
<i>Amphiura (Amphiura) uncinata</i>	38, 237 , 238, 334
<i>Amphiura abyssicola</i>	247
<i>Amphiura acutisima</i>	220
<i>Amphiura adjecta</i>	227
<i>Amphiura albella</i>	222
<i>Amphiura angularis</i>	224
<i>Amphiura angularis angularis</i>	224, 225
<i>Amphiura atlantica</i>	225
<i>Amphiura atlantica var. dilatata</i>	230
<i>Amphiura capensis</i>	227
<i>Amphiura compressa</i>	227
<i>Amphiura dilatata</i>	225
<i>Amphiura duplicata</i>	243
<i>Amphiura grandis</i>	234
<i>Amphiura grandisquama natalensis</i>	229
<i>Amphiura incana</i>	230
<i>Amphiura integra</i>	211
<i>Amphiura linearis</i>	232
<i>Amphiura otteri</i>	234
<i>Amphiura partita</i>	243
<i>Amphiura relictata</i>	208
<i>Amphiura scripta</i>	238
<i>Amphiura sculpta</i>	230
<i>Amphiura simonsi</i>	235
<i>Amphiura squamata</i>	217
<i>Amphiura uncinata</i>	237
AMPHIURIDAE.....	33, 206
<i>Anamphiura valida</i>	194, 195
<i>Anophiura</i>	95
<i>Anophiura simplex</i>	45, 96 , 97, 104, 332
<i>Aspidophiura</i>	97
<i>Aspidophiura corone</i>	45, 97 , 98, 332
<i>Asterias euryale</i>	14, 61

<i>Asterias fragilis</i>	284
<i>Asterias pentaphylla</i>	284
<i>Asterias rubens</i>	13
<i>Asterias squamata</i>	217
<i>Asteromorpha</i>	53
<i>Asteromorpha capensis</i>	35, 53 , 54
ASTERONYCHIDAE	49
<i>Asteronyx</i>	49, 51
<i>Asteronyx Cooperi</i>	49
<i>Asteronyx dispar</i>	49
<i>Asteronyx locardi</i>	49
<i>Asteronyx loveni</i>	35, 49 , 50, 331
<i>Asteronyx luzonicus</i>	51
<i>Asteroschema</i>	51
<i>Asteroschema capense</i>	53
<i>Asteroschema capensis</i>	53
<i>Asteroschema salix</i>	51 , 52, 331
<i>Asterostegus</i>	54, 56, 57
<i>Asterostegus tuberculatus</i>	35, 54 , 55, 315, 331
<i>Astrothorax</i>	67
<i>Astrothorax papillata</i>	67
<i>Astrothorax waitei</i>	67, 68
<i>Astroboa</i>	57, 58
<i>Astroboa nigra</i>	57
<i>Astroboa nuda</i>	36, 57 , 58, 59, 331
<i>Astroboa nuda</i> var. <i>elegans</i>	57
<i>Astroboa nuda</i> var. <i>nigra</i>	57
<i>Astroceras</i> Lyman, 1879	56
<i>Astroceras spinigerum</i>	35, 56 , 57, 331
<i>Astrocladus</i>	58, 59
<i>Astrocladus africanus</i>	59 , 60, 315, 331
<i>Astrocladus euryale</i>	36, 61 , 62, 331
<i>Astrocladus hirtus</i>	36, 62 , 63, 331
<i>Astrocladus hirtus</i> var. <i>reticulatus</i>	62
<i>Astroconus capensis</i>	64
<i>Astrodactylus robillardi</i>	65
<i>Astrodendrum</i>	64
<i>Astrodendrum capensis</i>	36, 64 , 65, 315, 331
<i>Astrodendrum pustulatum</i>	70
<i>Astroglymma</i>	65
<i>Astroglymma</i> cf. <i>sculptum</i>	35, 65 , 66, 315, 331
<i>Astroglymma robillardi</i>	65
<i>Astroglymma sculptum</i>	65
<i>Astromorpha capensis</i>	14, 53
<i>Astrophium</i>	74, 77
<i>Astrophium cavellae</i>	74, 75
<i>Astrophium permira</i>	45, 73 , 75, 76, 331

ASTROPHIURIDAE.....	32, 74
Astrophiuridae	73
<i>Astrophyton chilense</i>	68
<i>Astrophyton elegans</i>	57
<i>Astrophyton nudum</i>	57
<i>Astrophyton pourtalesi</i>	68
<i>Astrophyton sculptum</i>	65
<i>Astroschema capensis</i>	53, 54
<i>Astrothamnus papillatus</i>	67
<i>Astrothorax papillatus</i>	35, 67 , 68, 331

B

<i>Breviturma</i>	162
<i>Breviturma brevipes</i>	28, 43, 162 , 163, 164, 329
<i>Breviturma dentata</i>	43, 164 , 165, 166, 329
<i>Breviturma doederleini</i>	43, 159, 166 , 167, 329
<i>Breviturma pica</i>	43, 168 , 169, 329
<i>Breviturma pusilla</i>	42, 169 , 170, 171, 329

C

<i>Callionymus lyra</i>	13
<i>Cancer pagurus</i>	13
<i>Cephea cephea</i>	267
<i>Cryptopelta</i>	134
<i>Cryptopelta aster</i>	44, 134 , 135, 332

D

<i>Dictenophiura</i>	90
<i>Dictenophiura anoidea</i>	46, 90 , 91, 331
<i>Distichophis clarki</i>	148

E

<i>Echinometra mathaei</i>	281
EURYALIDA.....	49
EURYALIDAE	51

G

GORGONOCEPHALIDAE.....	32, 57
<i>Gorgonocephalus</i>	68
<i>Gorgonocephalus chilensis</i>	36, 68 , 69, 70, 71, 331
<i>Gorgonocephalus chilensis</i> var. <i>novaezealandiae</i>	68
<i>Gorgonocephalus moluccanus</i>	70
<i>Gorgonocephalus pectinatus</i>	70
<i>Gorgonocephalus pourtalesii</i>	68
<i>Gorgonocephalus pustulatum</i>	36, 70 , 71, 72, 331

<i>Gorgonocephalus robillardi</i>	65
<i>Gymnophiura coerulescens</i>	106
<i>Gymnophiura novembris</i>	89

H

HEMIEURYALIDAE	33, 190
<i>Histampica</i>	243
<i>Histampica duplicata</i>	39, 243 , 246, 247, 335
<i>Homalophiura irrorata</i>	102
<i>Homalophiura schmidtotti</i>	104

L

<i>Labrus bergylta</i>	13
<i>Labrus mixtus</i>	13
<i>Luidia ciliaris</i>	13
<i>Luidia sarsii</i>	13
<i>Lymanella</i>	206

M

<i>Macrophiothrix</i>	30, 258
<i>Macrophiothrix aspidota</i>	263
<i>Macrophiothrix brevipeda</i>	260
<i>Macrophiothrix demessa</i>	15, 41, 258 , 259, 260, 315, 335
<i>Macrophiothrix hirsuta</i>	260
<i>Macrophiothrix hirsuta cheneyi</i>	41, 260 , 261, 262, 315, 335
<i>Macrophiothrix longipeda</i>	41, 262 , 263, 264, 315, 335
<i>Macrophiothrix mossambica</i>	258
<i>Macrophiothrix propinqua</i>	15, 41, 264 , 265, 266, 283, 335
<i>Macrophiothrix robillardi</i>	263
<i>Marthasterias glacialis</i>	13
<i>Melithaea ochracea</i>	272

N

<i>Necora puber</i>	13
<i>Netrostoma</i> sp	267
<i>Nicella dichotoma</i>	53

O

<i>Ophiacantha</i>	117
<i>Ophiacantha (Ophiotreta) durbanensis</i>	114
<i>Ophiacantha baccata</i>	36, 117 , 118, 332
<i>Ophiacantha barracoutae</i>	119
<i>Ophiacantha durbanensis</i>	114
<i>Ophiacantha lambda</i>	123
<i>Ophiacantha matura</i>	115

<i>Ophiacantha nerthepsila</i>	37, 119 , 120, 332
<i>Ophiacantha oedidisca</i>	128
<i>Ophiacantha perfida</i>	123
<i>Ophiacantha relictata</i>	128
<i>Ophiacantha scutigera</i>	37, 120 , 121, 332
<i>Ophiacantha striolata</i>	37, 122 , 123, 332
OPHIACANTHIDA.....	111
OPHIACANTHIDAE.....	32, 117
OPHIACTIDAE.....	33, 247
<i>Ophiactis</i>	233
<i>Ophiactis abyssicola</i>	40, 247 , 248, 335
<i>Ophiactis africana</i>	249
<i>Ophiactis africana capensis</i>	249
<i>Ophiactis carnea</i>	40, 249 , 250, 335
<i>Ophiactis conferta</i>	256
<i>Ophiactis corallicola</i>	247
<i>Ophiactis echinata</i>	247
<i>Ophiactis flexuosa</i>	15, 254
<i>Ophiactis hemiteles</i>	252, 257
<i>Ophiactis lymani</i>	254
<i>Ophiactis maculosa</i>	255
<i>Ophiactis minor</i>	217
<i>Ophiactis nidarosiensis</i>	40, 250 , 251, 315, 335
<i>Ophiactis picteti</i>	15, 249, 252, 257
<i>Ophiactis cf. picteti</i>	40, 252 , 253, 335
<i>Ophiactis plana</i>	15, 40, 251, 254 , 255, 335
<i>Ophiactis poa</i>	247
<i>Ophiactis profundus</i>	254
<i>Ophiactis reinhardtii</i>	255
<i>Ophiactis savignyi</i>	14, 40, 176, 249, 251, 255 , 256, 257, 315, 335
<i>Ophiactis sexradia</i>	255
<i>Ophiactis sinensis</i>	252
<i>Ophiactis versicolor</i>	256
<i>Ophiarachna</i>	158
<i>Ophiarachna affinis</i>	44, 158 , 159, 329
<i>Ophiarachna armata</i>	160
<i>Ophiarachna clavigera</i>	158
<i>Ophiarachna gorgonia</i>	139
<i>Ophiarachna septemspinosa</i>	44, 160 , 161, 162, 329
<i>Ophiarachna spinosa</i>	148, 150
<i>Ophiarachnella</i>	29, 137
<i>Ophiarachnella capensis</i>	44, 138 , 139, 332
<i>Ophiarachnella gorgonia</i>	29, 44, 138, 139 , 140, 141, 315, 329
<i>Ophiarachnella marmorata</i>	139
<i>Ophiarachnella septemspinosa</i>	160
<i>Ophiarthrum</i>	162
<i>Ophioderma wahlbergii</i>	143

OPHIERNIDAE.....	183
<i>Ophiernus</i>	183
<i>Ophiernus abyssalis</i>	185
<i>Ophiernus quadrispinus</i>	46, 183 , 184, 329
<i>Ophiernus vallincola</i>	46, 183, 184, 185 , 186, 329
<i>Ophiochaeta</i>	145
<i>Ophiochaeta boschmai</i>	145
<i>Ophiochaeta hirsuta</i>	44, 145 , 146, 329
<i>Ophiochasma</i>	141
<i>Ophiochasma nitida</i>	44, 142 , 329
<i>Ophiochiton australis</i>	196
<i>Ophiocnemis</i>	266
<i>Ophiocnemis marmorata</i>	41, 266 , 267, 268, 335
<i>Ophiocnemis venusta</i>	273, 274
<i>Ophiocnida picteti</i>	252
<i>Ophiocnida sexradia</i>	175
<i>Ophiocoma</i>	30, 162, 171
<i>Ophiocoma (Breviturma) brevipes</i>	163
<i>Ophiocoma (Breviturma) dentata</i>	164, 166
<i>Ophiocoma brevipes</i>	162, 163
<i>Ophiocoma brevispinosa</i>	163
<i>Ophiocoma cynthiae</i>	187
<i>Ophiocoma dentata</i>	164, 166
<i>Ophiocoma doederleini</i>	166
<i>Ophiocoma erinaceus</i>	28, 43, 171 , 172, 173, 329
<i>Ophiocoma insularia</i>	164
<i>Ophiocoma latilanxa</i>	169
<i>Ophiocoma parva</i>	175
<i>Ophiocoma pica</i>	162, 168
<i>Ophiocoma pusilla</i>	169, 170
<i>Ophiocoma schoenleinii</i>	172
<i>Ophiocoma scolopendrina</i>	28, 43, 173 , 174, 175, 181, 329
<i>Ophiocoma similanensis</i>	171
<i>Ophiocoma ternispina</i>	164
<i>Ophiocoma valenciae</i>	177, 179
<i>Ophiocoma variegata</i>	164
<i>Ophiocomella</i>	159, 162, 175
<i>Ophiocomella clippertoni</i>	175
<i>Ophiocomella schultzi</i>	175
<i>Ophiocomella sexradia</i>	42, 175 , 176, 177, 329
<i>Ophiocomella valenciae</i>	42, 177 , 178, 329
OPHIOCOMIDAE.....	33, 162
<i>Ophioconis</i>	140
<i>Ophioconis cupida</i>	44, 157 , 329
<i>Ophiocrasis dictydisca</i>	198
<i>Ophiocrasis marktanneri</i>	198
<i>Ophiocryptus pacificus</i>	136

<i>Ophiocten</i>	78, 79
<i>Ophiocten affinis simulans</i>	46, 78 , 79, 80, 81, 315, 331
<i>Ophiocten amitinum</i>	46, 80 , 81, 82, 331
<i>Ophiocten amitinum</i> var. <i>microplax</i>	78, 80
<i>Ophiocten amitinum</i> var. <i>simulans</i>	78, 79
<i>Ophiocten australis</i>	82
<i>Ophiocten hastata</i>	82
<i>Ophiocten hastatum</i>	46, 82 , 83, 84, 331
<i>Ophiocten latens</i>	82
<i>Ophiocten longispinum</i>	82
<i>Ophiocten pacificum</i>	82
<i>Ophiодaphne</i>	238
<i>Ophiодaphne scripta</i>	37, 238 , 239, 240, 334
<i>Ophioderma</i>	143
<i>Ophioderma leonis</i>	143, 144
<i>Ophioderma wahlbergii</i>	44, 143 , 144, 329
OPHIODERMATIDAE	32, 134
<i>Ophiodyscrita</i>	136
<i>Ophiodyscrita acosmeta</i>	44, 136 , 137, 332
<i>Ophioelegans cincta</i>	189
<i>Ophioglypha ferruginea</i>	85
<i>Ophioglypha flagellata</i>	106
<i>Ophioglypha grandis</i>	102
<i>Ophioglypha involuta</i>	102
<i>Ophioglypha irrorata</i>	102
<i>Ophioglypha kinbergi</i>	85
<i>Ophioglypha lepida</i>	87
<i>Ophioglypha orbiculata</i>	102
<i>Ophioglypha remota</i>	92
<i>Ophioglypha sculptilis</i>	92
<i>Ophioglypha sinensis</i>	85
<i>Ophioglypha thouleti</i>	87
<i>Ophioglypha tumulosa</i>	102
<i>Ophioglypha variabilis</i>	92
<i>Ophiogymna</i>	268
<i>Ophiogymna capensis</i>	40, 268 , 269, 335
<i>Ophiogymna fulgens</i>	40, 270 , 271, 335
<i>Ophiogymna pellicular</i>	270
<i>Ophiogymna pulchella</i>	269
OPHIOLEPIDIDAE	33, 104, 188
<i>Ophiolepis</i>	173, 188
<i>Ophiolepis cincta cincta</i>	45, 189 , 190, 329
<i>Ophiolepis cincta</i>	189
<i>Ophiolepis dubia</i>	198
<i>Ophiolepis garretti</i>	189
<i>Ophiolepis sexradia</i>	255
OPHIOLEUCIDA	33, 183

OPHIOLEUCIDAE	186
<i>Ophiolimna</i>	123
<i>Ophiolimna perfida</i>	36, 123 , 124, 332
<i>Ophiolycus</i>	108
<i>Ophiolycus dentatus</i>	36, 108 , 109, 315, 332
<i>Ophiomastix</i>	179
<i>Ophiomastix koehleri</i>	43, 179 , 180, 329
<i>Ophiomastix pusilla</i>	169
<i>Ophiomastix sexradiata</i>	175
<i>Ophiomastix venosa</i>	43, 181 , 182, 329
<i>Ophiomisidium</i>	73, 76, 77, 78
<i>Ophiomisidium pulchellum</i>	46, 76 , 331
<i>Ophiomitra cardiomorpha</i>	131, 132
<i>Ophiomitra rudis</i>	131
<i>Ophiomitrella</i>	125
<i>Ophiomitrella corynephora</i>	37, 125 , 126, 332
<i>Ophiomitrella hamata</i>	37, 126 , 127, 332
<i>Ophiomusa</i>	72, 77
<i>Ophiomusa lymani</i>	45, 72 , 73, 74, 331
OPHIOMUSAIDAE	32, 72, 76
<i>Ophiomusium</i>	73, 77, 78
<i>Ophiomusium pulchellum</i>	76 , 77, 78
<i>Ophiomyxa</i>	150
<i>Ophiomyxa australis</i>	36, 150 , 151, 152, 153, 155, 156, 315, 329
<i>Ophiomyxa bengalensis</i>	36, 152 , 153, 329
<i>Ophiomyxa brevispina</i>	151
<i>Ophiomyxa brevispina</i> var. <i>irregularis</i>	151
<i>Ophiomyxa irregularis</i>	151
<i>Ophiomyxa robillardi</i>	151
<i>Ophiomyxa tenuispina</i>	36, 153, 154 , 155, 156, 315, 329
<i>Ophiomyxa vivipara</i>	155, 156
<i>Ophiomyxa vivipara capensis</i>	36, 155 , 156, 329
<i>Ophiomyxa vivipara</i> var. <i>capensis</i>	155
OPHIOMYXIDAE	32, 150
<i>Ophionephthys</i>	240
<i>Ophionephthys lowelli</i>	39, 240 , 241, 334
OPHIONEREIDIDAE	33, 196
<i>Ophionereis</i>	30, 196
<i>Ophionereis aplacophora</i>	200
<i>Ophionereis australis</i>	43, 196 , 197, 198, 334
<i>Ophionereis crassispina</i>	200
<i>Ophionereis dubia</i>	198
<i>Ophionereis dubia dubia</i>	43, 198 , 199, 334
<i>Ophionereis dubia sinensis</i>	198
<i>Ophionereis porrecta</i>	43, 200 , 201, 334
<i>Ophionereis sophiae</i>	200
<i>Ophionereis squamata</i>	200

<i>Ophionereis stigma</i>	198
<i>Ophionereis vivipara</i>	43, 202 , 203, 315, 334
<i>Ophiopallas</i>	186
<i>Ophiopallas paradoxa</i>	45, 187 , 188, 329
<i>Ophiopallas paradoxa altera</i>	187
<i>Ophiopeza</i>	146
<i>Ophiopeza aster</i>	134
<i>Ophiopeza danbyi</i>	163
<i>Ophiopeza dubiosa</i>	148
<i>Ophiopeza fallax</i>	147, 148
<i>Ophiopeza fallax fallax</i>	45, 147 , 148, 329
<i>Ophiopeza spinosa</i>	45, 148 , 149, 329
<i>Ophiopezella decorata</i>	147, 148
<i>Ophiopezella dubiosa</i>	148
<i>Ophiopezella luetkeni</i>	148
<i>Ophiopezella spinosa</i>	148
OPHIOPEZIDAE.....	32, 145
<i>Ophiophragmus affinis</i>	208
<i>Ophioplinthaca</i>	129
<i>Ophioplinthaca papillosa</i>	37, 130 , 131, 332
<i>Ophioplinthaca rudis</i>	37, 131 , 132, 332
<i>Ophioplinthaca sexradia</i>	37, 133 , 134, 315, 332
<i>Ophioplocus</i>	190
<i>Ophioplocus imbricata</i>	90
<i>Ophioplocus imbricatus</i>	45, 190 , 191, 192, 315, 334
<i>Ophioplocus tessellates</i>	190
<i>Ophioprium kapalae</i>	115
<i>Ophiopsammium nudum</i>	273
<i>Ophiopsila</i>	203
<i>Ophiopsila bispinosa</i>	42, 203 , 204, 205, 233, 334
<i>Ophiopsila seminuda</i>	42, 205 , 206, 334
OPHIOPSILIDAE.....	33, 203
'Ophiophthalmus' relictus	37, 128 , 129
<i>Ophiophthalmus relictus</i>	128
OPHIOPYRGIDAE.....	32, 92
OPHIOSCOLECIDA.....	32, 108
OPHIOSCOLECIDAE.....	108
<i>Ophioscolex</i>	109
<i>Ophioscolex (Ophiolycus) dentatus</i>	108
<i>Ophioscolex (Ophioscolex) inermis</i>	110
<i>Ophioscolex dentatus</i>	108
<i>Ophioscolex dentatus</i> var. <i>spiniger</i>	108
<i>Ophioscolex inermis</i>	36, 110 , 315, 332
<i>Ophiostegagus compsus</i>	136
<i>Ophioteresis beauforti</i>	273
OPHIOTHAMNIDAE.....	33, 244
<i>Ophiothamnus</i>	244

Ophiothamnus remotus	37, 244 , 245, 335
<i>Ophiothamnus remotus</i> var. <i>cordatus</i>	244
<i>Ophiothela</i>	271
<i>Ophiothela beauforti</i>	273
<i>Ophiothela caerulea</i>	272
Ophiothela danae	40, 271 , 272, 273, 335
<i>Ophiothela danae</i> var. <i>involuta</i>	272
<i>Ophiothela dividua</i>	271, 272
<i>Ophiothela hadra</i>	272
<i>Ophiothela isidicola</i>	271
Ophiothela venusta	40, 273 , 274, 275, 335
<i>Ophiothela verrilli</i>	272
<i>Ophiothrix</i>	275
Ophiothrix (Acanthophiothrix) proteus	41, 275 , 276, 277, 335
Ophiothrix (Acanthophiothrix) purpurea	41, 277 , 278, 335
<i>Ophiothrix (Keystonea) propinqua</i>	264
Ophiothrix (Ophiothrix) aristulata	42, 279 , 280, 286, 335
Ophiothrix (Ophiothrix) echinotecta	42, 280 , 281, 282, 335
Ophiothrix (Ophiothrix) foveolata	42, 282 , 283, 335
<i>Ophiothrix (Placophiothrix) westwardi</i>	265
<i>Ophiothrix aristulata</i>	279, 287
<i>Ophiothrix aristulata</i> var. <i>investigatoris</i>	279
<i>Ophiothrix bedoti</i>	264
<i>Ophiothrix capensis</i>	268
<i>Ophiothrix cheneyi</i>	260
<i>Ophiothrix coronata</i>	258
<i>Ophiothrix demessa</i>	258
<i>Ophiothrix echinoteta</i>	280
<i>Ophiothrix fallax</i>	277
<i>Ophiothrix foveolata</i>	282
Ophiothrix fragilis	42, 284 , 285, 286, 287, 335
Ophiothrix fragilis var. triglochis	42, 284, 285 , 286, 335
<i>Ophiothrix hirsuta</i>	260
<i>Ophiothrix insidiosa</i>	282
<i>Ophiothrix longipeda</i>	262, 263
<i>Ophiothrix lorioli</i>	277
<i>Ophiothrix mauritiensis</i>	258
<i>Ophiothrix megaloplax</i>	279
<i>Ophiothrix microplax</i>	262
<i>Ophiothrix poecilodisca</i>	282
<i>Ophiothrix propinqua</i>	264
<i>Ophiothrix proteus</i>	275
<i>Ophiothrix punctolimbata</i>	262
<i>Ophiothrix purpurea</i>	277
<i>Ophiothrix schmidti</i>	264
<i>Ophiothrix triglochis</i>	285, 287
<i>Ophiothrix triloba</i>	264

<i>Ophiotoma</i>	111
<i>Ophiotoma alberti</i>	111, 113
<i>Ophiotoma cf. alberti</i>	37, 111 , 112, 114, 332
<i>Ophiotoma gracilis</i>	112, 113
<i>Ophiotoma cf. gracilis</i>	37, 112 , 113, 332
OPHIOTOMIDAE.....	32, 111
<i>Ophiotrema alberti</i>	111
<i>Ophiotrema gracilis</i>	112
<i>Ophiotreta</i>	114
<i>Ophiotreta durbanensis</i>	36, 114 , 115, 117, 332
<i>Ophiotreta kapalae</i>	115
<i>Ophiotreta matura</i>	36, 115 , 116, 117, 332
OPHIOTRICHIDAE.....	33, 258
<i>Ophiotrichodes propinqua</i>	264
<i>Ophiozona capensis</i>	99
<i>Ophithela nuda</i>	273
<i>Ophiura</i>	79, 84, 99
<i>Ophiura (Ophiuroglypha) costata</i>	99
<i>Ophiura (Ophiuroglypha) costata costata</i>	99
<i>Ophiura (Ophiuroglypha) irrorata</i>	103
<i>Ophiura (Ophiuroglypha) irrorata irrorata</i>	96, 103
<i>Ophiura (Ophiuroglypha) schmidtotti</i>	104
<i>Ophiura (Ophiura) affinis similans</i>	78
<i>Ophiura (Ophiura) flagellata</i>	106
<i>Ophiura (Ophiura) kinbergi</i>	85
<i>Ophiura (Ophiura) ljungmani</i>	87
<i>Ophiura (Ophiura) trimeni</i>	89
<i>Ophiura affinis</i>	79
<i>Ophiura affinis similans</i>	78
<i>Ophiura amitina</i>	80
<i>Ophiura costata</i>	99
'<i>Ophiura</i>' flagellata	47, 106 , 107, 332
<i>Ophiura flagellata</i>	106
<i>Ophiura indica</i>	85
<i>Ophiura kinbergi</i>	47, 84 , 85, 86, 315, 331
<i>Ophiura lepida</i>	87
<i>Ophiura ljungmani</i>	47, 87 , 88, 331
<i>Ophiura longipeda</i>	262
<i>Ophiura marmorata</i>	266
<i>Ophiura ooplax</i>	90
<i>Ophiura scolopendrina</i>	173
<i>Ophiura sculptilis</i>	92
<i>Ophiura sinensis</i>	85
<i>Ophiura trimeni</i>	46, 89 , 90, 331
<i>Ophiura wahlbergii</i>	143
OPHIURIDA.....	72
OPHIURIDAE.....	32, 78

<i>Ophiurodon cupida</i>	157, 158
<i>Ophiurodon cupidum</i>	157
<i>Ophiuroglypha</i>	99
<i>Ophiuroglypha (Ophiuroglypha) costata</i>	101
<i>Ophiuroglypha (Ophiuroglypha) tumida</i>	101
<i>Ophiuroglypha capensis</i>	99
<i>Ophiuroglypha costata</i>	47, 99 , 100, 332
<i>Ophiuroglypha irrorata irrorata</i>	47, 102 , 103, 104, 332
<i>Ophiuroglypha irrotata</i>	102
<i>Ophiuroglypha schmid-totti</i>	104
<i>Ophiuroglypha schmidtotti</i>	47, 104 , 105, 332
<i>Ophiuroglypha tumida</i>	47, 101 , 102, 332
<i>Ophiuropsis lymani</i>	49
<i>Opholepis cincta</i>	189
<i>Opiuraster patersoni</i>	49
<i>Ophiactis duplicata</i>	243

P

<i>Pectinura capensis</i>	138
<i>Pectinura fallax</i>	147
<i>Pectinura gorgonia</i>	139
<i>Pectinura marmorata</i>	139
<i>Pectinura rigida</i>	160
<i>Pectinura semptemspinosa</i>	160
<i>Pectinura venusta</i>	139
<i>Placophiothrix aristulata</i>	279
<i>Placophiothrix foveolata</i>	282
<i>Placophiothrix proteus</i>	276
<i>Placophiothrix purpurea</i>	277

R

<i>Rhopilema esculentum</i>	267
<i>Rhopilema hispidum</i>	267
<i>Rhopilema nomadica</i>	267

S

<i>Stomopneustes variolaris</i>	281
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U

<i>Unioplus</i>	206
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Checklist

Checklist of all Ophiuroidea species known for South Africa, also indicating endemic species and those species new to South Africa since Clark & Courtman-Stock (1976).

Taxon	Endemic	New to South Africa
EURYALIDA Lamarck, 1816		
Asteronychidae Ljungman, 1867		
<i>Asteronyx loveni</i> Müller & Troschel, 1842		
Euryalidae Gray, 1840		
<i>Asteroschema salix</i> Lyman, 1879		x
<i>Asteromorpha capensis</i> (Mortensen, 1925)		
<i>Asterostegus tuberculatus</i> Mortensen, 1933		
<i>Astroceras spinigerum</i> Mortensen, 1933		
Gorgonocephalidae Ljungman, 1867		
<i>Astroboa nuda</i> (Lyman, 1874)		x
<i>Astrocladus africanus</i> Mortensen, 1933		
<i>Astrocladus euryale</i> (Retzius, 1783)	x	
<i>Astrocladus hirtus</i> Mortensen, 1933	x	
<i>Astrodendrum capensis</i> (Mortensen 1933)		
<i>Astroglymma</i> cf. <i>sculptum</i> (Döderlein, 1896)		x
<i>Astrothorax papillatus</i> (Benham, 1909)		
<i>Gorgonocephalus chilensis</i> (Philippi, 1858)		
<i>Gorgonocephalus pustulatum</i> (H.L. Clark, 1916)		
OPHIURIDA Müller & Troschel, 1840		
Ophiomusaidae O'Hara <i>et al.</i>, 2018		
<i>Ophiomusa lymani</i> (Wyville Thomson, 1873)		
Astrophsiuridae Sladen, 1879		
<i>Astrophsiura permira</i> Sladen, 1879		
<i>Ophiomisidium pulchellum</i> (Wyville Thomson, 1878)		
Ophiuridae Müller & Troschel, 1840		
<i>Ophiocten affinis simulans</i> (Mortensen, 1936)	x	
<i>Ophiocten amitinum</i> Lyman, 1878		
<i>Ophiocten hastatum</i> Lyman, 1878		
<i>Ophiura kinbergi</i> Ljungman, 1867		
<i>Ophiura ljunmani</i> (Lyman, 1878)		
<i>Dictenophiura anoidea</i> Clark, 1923	x	
<i>Ophiura trimeni</i> Bell, 1905	x	

Taxon	Endemic	New to South Africa
Ophiopyrgidae Perrier, 1893		
<i>Amphiophiura sculptilis</i> (Lyman, 1878)		x
<i>Amphiophiura trifolium</i> Hertz, 1927		
' <i>Ophiura</i> ' <i>flagellata</i> (Lyman, 1878)		
<i>Ophiuroglypha costata</i> (Lyman, 1878)	x	
<i>Ophiuroglypha tumida</i> Mortensen, 1933		
<i>Ophiuroglypha irrorata irrorata</i> (Lyman, 1878)		
<i>Ophiuroglypha schmidtotti</i> Hertz, 1927		
<i>Anophiura simplex</i> H.L. Clark, 1939		
<i>Aspidophiura corone</i> Hertz, 1927		
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OPHIOSCOLECIDA		
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Ophioscolecidae Lütken, 1869		
<i>Ophiolycus dentatus</i> (Lyman, 1878)		
<i>Ophioscolex inermis</i> Mortensen, 1933	x	
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OPHIACANTHIDA		
<hr/>		
Ophiotomidae O'Hara et al., 2018		
<i>Ophiotoma</i> cf. <i>alberti</i> (Koehler, 1896)		x
<i>Ophiotoma</i> cf. <i>gracilis</i> (Koehler, 1914)		x
<i>Ophiotreta durbanensis</i> (Mortensen, 1933)	x	
<i>Ophiotreta matura</i> (Koehler, 1904)		
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Ophiacanthidae Ljungman, 1867		
<i>Ophiacantha baccata</i> Mortensen, 1933		
<i>Ophiacantha nertheptisila</i> H.L. Clark, 1923	x	
<i>Ophiacantha scutigera</i> Mortensen, 1933	x	
<i>Ophiacantha striolata</i> Mortensen, 1933	x	
<i>Ophiolimna perfida</i> (Koehler, 1904)		
<i>Ophiomitrella corynephora</i> H.L. Clark, 1923	x	
<i>Ophiomitrella hamata</i> Mortensen, 1933	x	
' <i>Ophiophthalmus</i> ' <i>relictus</i> (Koehler, 1904)		
<i>Ophioplinthaca papillosa</i> H.L. Clark, 1939		
<i>Ophioplinthaca rudis</i> (Koehler, 1897)		
<i>Ophioplinthaca sexradia</i> Mortensen, 1933	x	
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Ophiodermatidae Ljungman, 1867		
<i>Cryptopelta aster</i> (Lyman, 1879)	x	
<i>Ophiodyscrita acosmeta</i> H.L. Clark, 1938		x
<i>Ophiarachnella capensis</i> (Bell, 1888)		

Taxon	Endemic	New to South Africa
<i>Ophiarachnella gorgonia</i> (Müller & Troschel, 1842)		x
<i>Ophiochasma nitida</i> Hertz, 1927	x	
<i>Ophioderma wahlbergii</i> Müller & Troschel, 1842		
Ophiopezidae O'Hara et al., 2018		
<i>Ophiopeza fallax fallax</i> Peters, 1851		
<i>Ophiopeza spinosa</i> (Ljungman, 1867)		x
<i>Ophiochaeta hirsuta</i> Lütken, 1869		x
Ophiomyxidae Ljungman, 1867		
<i>Ophiomyxa australis</i> Lütken, 1869		x
<i>Ophiomyxa bengalensis</i> Koehler, 1897		
<i>Ophiomyxa tenuispina</i> Mortensen, 1933	x	
<i>Ophiomyxa vivipara capensis</i> Mortensen, 1936	x	
<i>Ophioconis cupida</i> Koehler, 1905		x
<i>Ophiarachna affinis</i> Lütken, 1869		x
<i>Ophiarachna septemspinosa</i> (Müller & Troschel, 1842)		x
Ophiocomidae Ljungman, 1867		
<i>Breviturma brevipes</i> Peters, 1851		x
<i>Breviturma dentata</i> Müller & Troschel, 1842		x
<i>Breviturma doederleini</i> de Loriol, 1899		x
<i>Breviturma pica</i> Müller & Troschel, 1842		
<i>Breviturma pusilla</i> (Brock, 1888)		x
<i>Ophiocoma erinaceus</i> Müller & Troschel, 1842		
<i>Ophiocoma scolopendrina</i> (Lamarck, 1816)		
<i>Ophiocomella valenciae</i> Müller & Troschel, 1842		
<i>Ophiocomella sexradia</i> (Duncan, 1887)		x
<i>Ophiomastix koehleri</i> Devaney, 1977		x
<i>Ophiomastix venosa</i> Peters, 1851		x
OPHIOLEUCIDA		
Ophiernidae O'Hara et al., 2018		
<i>Ophiernus quadrispinus</i> Koehler, 1908		
<i>Ophiernus vallincola</i> Lyman, 1878		
Ophioleucidae Matsumoto, 1915		
<i>Ophiopallas paradoxa</i> Koehler, 1904		
AMPHILEPIDIDA		
Ophiolepididae Ljungman, 1867		
<i>Ophiolepis cincta cincta</i> Müller & Troschel, 1842		

Taxon	Endemic	New to South Africa
Hemieuryalidae von Martens, 1867		
<i>Ophioplocus imbricatus</i> (Müller & Troschel, 1842)		x
Amphilimnidae O'Hara et al., 2018		
<i>Amphilimna cribriformis</i> A.M. Clark, 1974		
<i>Amphilimna valida</i> (H.L. Clark, 1939)		
Ophionereididae Ljungman, 1867		
<i>Ophionereis australis</i> (H.L. Clark, 1923)		
<i>Ophionereis dubia dubia</i> (Müller & Troschel, 1842)		
<i>Ophionereis porrecta</i> Lyman, 1861		
<i>Ophionereis vivipara</i> Mortensen, 1933		
Ophiopsilidae Matsumoto, 1915		
<i>Ophiopsila bispinosa</i> A.M. Clark, 1974		x
<i>Ophiopsila seminuda</i> A.M. Clark, 1952		
Amphiuridae Ljungman, 1869		
<i>Amphioplus (Amphioplus) pectinatus</i> Mortensen, 1933		x
<i>Amphioplus (Lymanella) depressus</i> (Ljungman, 1867)		
<i>Amphioplus (Lymanella) furcatus</i> Mortensen, 1933		
<i>Amphioplus (Lymanella) integer</i> (Ljungman, 1867)		
<i>Amphioplus (Unioplus) falcatus</i> Mortensen, 1933		x
<i>Amphipholis similis</i> Mortensen, 1933		x
<i>Amphipholis squamata</i> (Delle Chiaje, 1828)		
<i>Amphipholis strata</i> Mortensen, 1933		x
<i>Amphiura (Amphiura) acutisquama</i> A.M. Clark, 1952		x
<i>Amphiura (Amphiura) albella</i> Mortensen, 1933		x
<i>Amphiura (Amphiura) angularis</i> Lyman, 1879		
<i>Amphiura (Amphiura) atlantica</i> Ljungman, 1867		
<i>Amphiura (Amphiura) capensis</i> Ljungman, 1867		
<i>Amphiura (Amphiura) grandisquama natalensis</i> Mortensen, 1933		x
<i>Amphiura (Amphiura) incana</i> Lyman, 1879		
<i>Amphiura (Amphiura) linearis</i> Mortensen, 1933		x
<i>Amphiura (Amphiura) otteri</i> Ljungman, 1872		
<i>Amphiura (Amphiura) simonsi</i> A.M. Clark, 1952		x
<i>Amphiura (Amphiura) uncinata</i> Koehler, 1904		
<i>Ophiodaphne scripta</i> (Koehler, 1904)		
<i>Ophionephthys lowelli</i> A.M. Clark, 1974		x

Taxon	Endemic	New to South Africa
Amphilepididae Matsumoto, 1915		
<i>Amphilepis scutata</i> Mortensen, 1933	x	
Ophiothamnidae O'Hara et al., 2018		
<i>Ophiothamnus remotus</i> Lyman, 1878	x	
<i>Histampica duplicata</i> (Lyman, 1875)		
Ophiactidae Matsumoto, 1915		
<i>Ophiactis abyssicola</i> (M. Sars, 1861)		
<i>Ophiactis carnea</i> Ljungman, 1867		
<i>Ophiactis nidarosiensis</i> Mortensen, 1920		
<i>Ophiactis</i> cf. <i>picteti</i> (de Loriol, 1893)		x
<i>Ophiactis plana</i> Lyman, 1869		
<i>Ophiactis savignyi</i> (Müller & Troschel, 1842)		
Ophiotrichidae Ljungman, 1867		
<i>Macrophiothrix demessa</i> (Lyman, 1862)		x
<i>Macrophiothrix hirsuta cheneyi</i> (Lyman, 1862)		
<i>Macrophiothrix longipeda</i> (Lamarck, 1816)		
<i>Macrophiothrix propinqua</i> (Lyman, 1862)		x
<i>Ophiocnemis marmorata</i> (Lamarck, 1816)		
<i>Ophiogymna capensis</i> (Lütken, 1869)	x	
<i>Ophiogymna fulgens</i> (Koehler, 1905)		
<i>Ophiothela danae</i> Verrill, 1869		
<i>Ophiothela venusta</i> (de Loriol, 1900)		
<i>Ophiothrix (Acanthophiothrix) proteus</i> Koehler, 1905		
<i>Ophiothrix (Acanthophiothrix) purpurea</i> von Martens, 1867		x
<i>Ophiothrix (Ophiothrix) aristulata</i> Lyman, 1879		
<i>Ophiothrix (Ophiothrix) echinotecta</i> Balinsky, 1957		x
<i>Ophiothrix (Ophiothrix) foveolata</i> Marktanner, 1887		x
<i>Ophiothrix fragilis</i> (Abildgaard, in O.F. Müller, 1789)		
<i>Ophiothrix fragilis</i> var. <i>triglochis</i> (Müller & Troschel, 1842)	x	

Glossary

Terms used in taxonomic studies of brittle and baskets stars of South Africa.

Term	Definition / explanation
Abut	Touching, or being next to.
Adjacent	Next to, nearest in space or position, immediately adjoining without a space.
Adoral	Situated near mouth.
Adoral shields	Pair of plates in each ventral interradius adjacent to an unpaired oral shield (Fig. 10).
Adradial	Situated near or beside arms.
Ambulacrum / ambulacral grooves	Structure/s which run along the ventral side of the arm, through which tube feet protrude.
Annulated	Furnished with or composed of rings, structural or in colouration.
Apical papillae	Papillae on apex of jaws, on dental plate, homologous to teeth.
Apical	Apex, tip or top of a conical or spherical structure.
Appressed	Pressed up against or close to another structure.
Approximating	Close to or similar to something.
Arm comb	Series of papillae or small spines arising from the distalmost end of the abradial genital plate distal to each radial shield at base of arm (Fig. 8).
Arm plates	Plates on arms for rigidity and protection, may be distinct or not, found dorsally, ventrally and laterally (Figs 7, 8, 10, 13 & 14).
Arm spines	Projections hosted by lateral arm plates; also see spines (Figs 10 & 16).
Attenuate	Becomes thin or fine; to lessen.
Autotomise	Separation of an appendage or body part.
Basal	Part nearest to disc; see also proximal (Fig. 7).
Belts of hooks	Fine arm spines arranged in belts encircling arm; also see girdle belts.

Term	Definition / explanation
Bifurcate	Divided into two (Fig. 21), y-shaped.
Branched	Arms forming tree-like formation by splitting.
Carinate	With a keel or keel-like ridge.
Central plate	Plates in centre of disc, may be a variety of shapes (Fig. 9).
Clavate	Club-shaped; gradually becoming thicker towards end; having an enlarged terminal end (Fig. 21).
Concentric	Formation of circles or arcs which share a common centre.
Constricted	To make narrower, may be in a non-uniform manner.
Contiguous	Touching or very close, unable to see separation.
Dental papillae	Papillae are modified teeth, positioned on dental plate on jaw, dental plates can only be seen during dissections (Figs 11 & 12).
Diastema	Space or gap between two adjacent papillae or teeth.
Digitate	Shape of a spread hand, many lobes (Fig. 21).
Disc margin	Outer edge or periphery of disc.
Distal notch	Inner area within oral slit where two jaws join.
Distal	Part of a structure farthest from centre of body, opposite to proximal (Fig. 7).
Dorsal	Top or upper side of an organism.
Dorso-ventrally	Direction in which arms bend i.e., towards ventral side.
Excavate	Form a hollow.
Fenestrated	Small opening.
Fissiparous	Self-dividing across disc, followed by regeneration.
Flatten	Compressed or to decrease in height.
Flange	Projection, rim or collar on a structure, serving for strength or attachment.
Fork	Position where arm splits.
Genital papillae	Papillae located on or adjacent to genital slit (Fig. 10).

Term	Definition / explanation
Genital plate	Plate adjacent to genital slit.
Genital slits	Genital openings on ventral side of disc, often lying where arm and disc connect or on lateral side of disc (Fig. 10).
Girdle belts	Encircling or ring-like structure of fine arm spines arranged in belts encircling arm; also see belts of hooks.
Glassy	Almost transparent, glossy or shiny.
Hyaline	Clear or transparent.
Imbricating	Structures overlapping.
Infra-	Prefix, down, below, beneath.
Infradental papillae	Oral papillae that originate at the lateral edge of the dental plate and may move below the teeth to varying degree (Fig. 10). Not apical papillae.
Inter-	Prefix, among or between.
Interradial area	Area between arms on disc, found both dorsally and ventrally.
Interstitial	Small spaces between.
Jaws	Mouth parts containing oral papillae, teeth and oral tentacle scales. Also see oral plates (Figs 10, 11 & 12).
Lacking	Non-existent, absent.
Lamina	Inner side of hooks or hooklets of arm spine, present in Euryalida (Fig. 18).
Lateral	Situated at, coming from, or directed towards a side.
Lateroventral	Situated to a side and below or underside.
Lobe	Round protrusion from a surface (Fig. 20).
Lowermost (referring to teeth)	Position when ventral side is being examined, lowermost tooth is closest tooth while uppermost tooth is deep in mouth.
Madreporite	Perforated plate by which entry of seawater into vascular system is controlled.
Marbled	Streaked, patterned or variegated in appearance.
Marginal plates	Plates on disc margin.

Term	Definition / explanation
Median projection	Protrusion in middle.
Moniliform	Like a string of beads in appearance.
Multifid	End or tip of a structure, has multiple protrusions, divisions or tips; also see multi-toothed (Fig. 21).
Multi-toothed	End or tip of a structure, has multiple protrusions, divisions or tips; also see multifid (Fig. 21).
Notch	Indentation on edge or surface of a structure (Fig. 20).
Opaque	Structure not being translucent or clear.
Opercular	Flap-like or broad in shape.
Oral	Lower or underside of an echinoderm or pertaining to area close to mouth. Also see ventral and adoral.
Oral bridge	Structure covering part of the ambulacral groove on the underside of vertebrae in arms.
Oral frame	Outer edges of jaws.
Oral papillae	Papillae fringing jaws, may be one or few (Figs 7, 10, 11 & 12).
Oral plates	Internal skeletal elements of the jaws, two per jaw.
Oral shield	Single plate on each jaw, adjacent to adoral shields.
Oral slit	Mouth or opening on ventral side, slit between two jaws.
Oral tentacle pore	Pore in oral / jaw area from which tube feet arise (Fig. 10).
Oral tentacle scales	Single or sometimes paired papillae adjacent to first one or two tentacle / oral pores, more or less inset into oral slit, sometimes in series with or may be indistinguishable from oral papillae.
Ossicles	Small calcified structures referred to in Euryalida structures.
Papilla	Nipple-like elevation or feature.
Papilliform	Shape of nipple-like structures.
Paved	Where plates cover a surface or interlocking without gaps or overlapping.

Term	Definition / explanation
Plates	Structures used in reinforcement, protection or creating structure; also see shields and scales.
Polygonal	Two-dimensional shapes formed with straight lines, 3 or more sides and angles.
Primary rosette	Group of five primary radial plates and central plate on dorsal side of disc (Fig. 9).
Proximal	Toward or nearer centre of body; see also basal (Fig. 7).
Pustular	Small swelling or slightly enlarged structure at tip of a structure, similar to clavate or club.
Pyriform	Pear-shaped (Fig. 20).
Radial plates	Primary plates located in centre of disc, not to be confused with radial shields which are located at disc margin.
Radial shields	Pair of plates on dorsal side of disc opposite base of each arm, may be reduced or concealed by disc armament. In Euryalida, may be rib-like and sometimes referred to as radial ribs (Figs 7, 8 & 19).
Rudimentary	Immature, undeveloped or basic form.
Rugose	Structure being corrugated or rough.
Scales	Structures which cannot be identified individually and have no defined position; also see plates and shields.
Secondary tooth	Secondary hook on arm spines where end has more than a single hook (Fig. 18).
Segment	External structure of arm vertebrae.
Shields	Flat structures used in reinforcement, protection or creating structure; also see plates.
Simple	Arms not branched or do not split.
Sinuuous	Having many curves and turns.
Spines	Projections and protrusions which are hard and articulated, on disc and arms.
Spinelets	Small spines.

Term	Definition / explanation
Spiniform	Narrow and elongated, may diminish or reduce in thickness towards one end; also see tapering (Figs 20 & 21).
Squat	Short and wide.
Stereotropism	Growth or movement determined by contact with a solid.
Stout	Thick and visibly strong.
Striations	Series of ridges, furrows or linear marks.
Subcutaneous	Under skin.
Subequal	Nearly equal in length.
Superimposed	Placed or laying over another, usually so both structures are still evident.
Supplementary plates / shields	Additional plates adjacent to dorsal disc plates, oral shields or arm plates, only found in some families or genera.
Tapering	Diminishes or reduces in thickness towards one end; also see spiniform (Figs 20 & 21).
Teeth	Structures on dental plates (Figs 10, 11 & 12).
Tentacle pore	Pore from which tube feet arise (Fig. 10).
Tentacle scale	Papillae adjacent to tentacle pores, may cover tentacle pore (Fig. 10).
Terminal tooth	Primary hook on arm spines. Arm spines may have more than a single hook (Fig. 18).
Tessellated	Repeated use of a single shape, without gaps or overlapping.
Tinge	Trace of a colour.
Trefoil	Three-lobed (Fig. 20).
Trifid	Three points, parts or branches (Fig. 21).
Truncated	Abrupt termination or square end of a structure.
Tube feet	Appendages at end of water vascular system, project through tentacle pores.
Tumid	Puffy, swollen, enlarged, bulging.

Term	Definition / explanation
Umbrella	Fringe of modified arm plates, only found in <i>Astrophisura</i> .
Undulating	Wavy form or outline.
Ventral groove	Furrow along midline of ventral arm.
Ventral	Lower or underside of an organism.
Vertebrae	Internal structures/ossicles in arms, articulated with each other.
Wanting	Lacking, being non-existent or absent.

About the authors



Dr Jennifer M. Olbers (1981) has been a Marine Ecologist for Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife in KwaZulu-Natal for 12 years and is a Research Associate at the University of Cape Town. She has a PhD in Zoology. Her research interests are in marine invertebrate biodiversity and reef ecology. She has published numerous scientific and popular articles, presenting at various national and international conferences.



Emeritus Prof. Charles Griffiths (1948) is a former Head of the Zoology Department, University of Cape Town and was Director of the Marine Biology Research Centre for more than 25 years. He has been involved in the discovery of more than 100 species new to science and 200 other that are new to South Africa. He has authored 8 books and over 200 articles in peer-reviewed journals, as well as 80 semi-popular scientific articles and has trained more than 75 masters and PhD students.



Dr Tim O'Hara (1961) a marine curator at Museums Victoria in Melbourne Australia since 2001, is a world expert on the taxonomy, evolution and biogeography of brittle stars. These animals are abundant on the seafloor and his mission is to use distributional and DNA data from these animals to develop an understanding of how and when life spread around the oceans and their future conservation needs.



Dr Yves Samyn (1972) has been employed since 2004 by the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences in Brussels. First as responsible scientist for the Belgian Global Taxonomy Initiative, then, since 2012 as curator of the recent invertebrate collections. His research interests continue to be with the taxonomy of echinoderms, sea cucumbers in particular. In the last 2 decades he organised and participated to several expeditions to the Indian Ocean, resulting in important voucher collections from, a.o, South Africa.