

Muricidae

Pteropurpura festiva (Hinds, 1844)

Common Name: The Festive Murex

Location: Typically rocky subtidal habitats from Point Conception California, south to central Baja California Sur, Mexico. Occurrence of this species north of Point Conception is spotty.

Size: Shells from exposed shallow reef and intertidal are usually less than 40 mm in length and often average 30 mm. Shells of snails in deeper water and protected water average 36-44 mm and may exceed 55 mm.

Color forms: White, cream/light brown with brown stripes/lines

Notes: Juvenile snails in the intertidal zone may feed on limpets and barnacles. Larger snails in deeper water feed on clams and our occasional scavengers. Photos P. Tuskes



Additional biological Information: Tuskes *The Festivus*, 2009. 41 (3).

Additional photographs: Berschauer & Clark. *Marine Shells of the California Province*.