

Fasciolariidae

Hesperaptyxis luteopictus (Dall 1877)

Common Name: Painted Spindle



Pictured Specimen: 18.3mm, collected by diver, 10-12m on sand pockets amongst large rocks and kelp, Santa Cruz Island, California

Description: 13-26mm, small, spire about half the shell length, reddish-brown, with a whitish or yellowish-whitish spiral band in the middle of the whorls, with the center of the axial ribs whitish, base and canal pale. Spire whorls convex, each with 9-10 strong axial ribs crossed by two strong spiral cords, forming elongate beads on ribs. Columella smooth, slightly convex. Aperture oval. Outer lip ridged within and slightly flared. Canal slightly twisted, moderately long.

Habitat: On and under rocks and under kelp at low tide line

Range: Monterey Bay to northern Baja California (Isla San Geronimo)

Comments: Often covered by the small spiral shells of a serpulid marine worm. *Fusus* is latin for spindle, *luteus* is latin for yellow, and *pictus* latin for painted, referring to the yellowish-white band on the shell.

References: 1. National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Seashells, 1981 p. 577

2. Sea Shells of Southern California, 2018-2019, David P. Berschauer and Roger N. Clark, first edition, p. 70