

Lottiidae

Lottia pelta (Rathke, 1833)

Common Name: California Shield Limpet



Pictured Specimen: 24.4mm, on rocks at low tide, Venice California, 1926

Description: 24-54mm, heavy, moderately elevated, apex toward the front end, sides slightly convex, base broadly elliptical to oval, exterior grayish with irregular white radial stripes often forming a net like pattern, smooth irregular fine radial ribblets, interior pale blue/white, with a dark brown central spot and a border of alternating dark and light spots.

Habitat: On rocks and kelp holdfasts intertidally.

Range: Alaska to Baja California. The largest specimens are found in the northern part of the range.

Comments: Pelta is latin for "small shield".

References: 1. National Audubon Society Field Guide to Shells, 1981 p. 358
2. Sea Shells of Southern California, Berschauer and Clark, First Edition pp. 34-35