

MOST COMMON MARINE INVERTEBRATE SPECIES OF NIUE

TAU FUA FUGAFUGA MO E FALU MANU TAHI HA NIUE

<p>Silvermouth turban <i>Turbo argyrostomus</i> Alii</p> <p>Size: maximum 10 cm, commonly 7.5 cm Feeding habits: grazer Habitat: coral reef areas in moderately exposed habitats and in lagoons of atolls Edible</p>	<p>Rough turban <i>Turbo setosus</i> Alii</p> <p>Size: maximum 8 cm, commonly 5 cm Feeding habits: grazer Habitat: exposed areas of coral reefs; sublittoral zone in shallow water Edible</p>	<p>Rosemouth starshell <i>Astralum rhodostoma</i> Nikoniko aokikila</p> <p>Shell length: maximum 6 cm, commonly 4 cm Feeding habits: browsing on detritus, algae Habitat: in coral reef areas, typically in shallow, high-energy portions of barrier and fringing reefs Inedible</p>	<p>Maculated top <i>Trochum maculatum</i> Nikoniko hoeloa</p> <p>Shell length: maximum 6 cm, commonly 5 cm Feeding habits: feeds on filamentous algae Habitat: common in coral reefs and rocky shores Inedible</p>	<p>Rayed tree oyster <i>Isognomon perna</i> Tofe, Tofe tifa</p> <p>Shell height: maximum 7.5 cm, commonly 4 cm Feeding habits: suspension filter feeder Habitat: littoral and sublittoral to a depth of 20 m; byssally attached to rocks Inedible</p>	<p>Slender chiton <i>Cryptoplax</i> sp. Moko</p> <p>Size: maximum 10 cm Feeding habits: grazer Habitat: found under rocks and in crevices in fringing reefs; found in dead corals in lower intertidal to 3 m Edible</p>
<p>Limpet <i>Patella flexuosa</i> Matapihu</p> <p>Size: maximum 9.5 cm, commonly 4 cm Feeding habits: grazer Habitat: intertidal and shallow sublittoral zones Edible</p>	<p>Waved goblet <i>Cantharus undosus</i> Fofouli, Temotuku</p> <p>Shell length: maximum 4 cm, commonly 3 cm Feeding habits: mostly carnivore and scavenger feeding on worms, other molluscs, dead fish, crabs Habitat: on muddy rocks and under dead coral in reef areas; intertidal and shallow sublittoral zones Edible</p>	<p>Granular drupe <i>Morula granulata</i> Fofouli, Temotuku</p> <p>Size: maximum 3 cm Feeding habits: active predator feeding on molluscs, barnacles Habitat: common in reef flats of tropical and subtropical shallow waters Extra information: also black species Edible</p>	<p>Intermediate rock shell <i>Thais intermedia</i> Fofouli, Temotuku</p> <p>Size: maximum 3.5 cm Feeding habits: active predator feeding on molluscs, barnacles Habitat: reef edges Edible</p>	<p>Prickly Pacific drupe <i>Drupa ricina</i> Fofouli</p> <p>Size: maximum 2.5 cm Feeding habits: active predator feeding on molluscs, barnacles Habitat: intertidal rocks Edible</p>	<p>Purple Pacific drupe <i>Drupa morum</i> Fofouli</p> <p>Size: maximum 2.5 cm Feeding habits: active predator feeding on molluscs, barnacles Habitat: intertidal reefs Edible</p>
<p>Clathrate drupe <i>Drupa clathrata</i> Fofouli</p> <p>Size: maximum 4 cm Feeding habits: active predator feeding on molluscs, echinoderms, ascidians Habitat: intertidal and shallow sublittoral zones Edible</p>	<p>Fine-net peristernia <i>Peristernia nassatula</i> Fofouli</p> <p>Size: maximum 3.5 cm Feeding habits: active predator feeding on tube worms, vermetid and other molluscs Habitat: reef flats Edible</p>	<p>Cancellaria miter <i>Vexillum cancellarioides</i> Patupatu, Temotuku</p> <p>Size: maximum 2.5 cm Feeding habits: carrion feeder on small gastropods, sipunculid worms Habitat: intertidal reef flats Edible</p>	<p>Short-neck triton <i>Cymatium muricinum</i> Patupatu</p> <p>Shell length: maximum 7.5 cm, commonly 5 cm Feeding habits: active predator feeding on molluscs, echinoderms, ascidians Habitat: reef flats and in sandy to coarse detritic coral bottoms; littoral and sublittoral zones, very common in shallow waters Extra information: with white opening Edible</p>	<p>Nicobar hairy triton <i>Cymatium nicobaricum</i> Patupatu, Matanua</p> <p>Shell length: maximum 9 cm, commonly 6.5 cm Feeding habits: active predator feeding on molluscs, echinoderms, ascidians Habitat: sandy and rocky bottoms from the intertidal zone to depths of a few hundred metres Edible</p>	<p>Aculeate rock shell <i>Thais aculeata</i> Patupatu</p> <p>Shell length: maximum 9 cm, commonly 7.5 cm Feeding habits: active predator feeding on molluscs, barnacles Habitat: on rocky shores and coral reefs; intertidal zones Edible</p>
<p>Money cowrie <i>Cypraea moneta</i> Pule tea polololo</p> <p>Size: maximum 4 cm, commonly 3 cm Feeding habits: grazer; feeds at night Habitat: found in almost all habitats ranging from sandy, muddy, to rocky substrates Inedible</p>	<p>Lettered miter <i>Mitra litterata</i> Fofouli, Muiloa</p> <p>Size: maximum 2.5 cm Feeding habits: carrion feeder on small gastropods, sipunculid worms Habitat: intertidal coral reef flats Inedible</p>	<p>Bonelike miter <i>Imbricaria punctata</i> Fofouli, Muiloa, Fufu</p> <p>Size: maximum 2.5 cm Feeding habits: carrion feeder on small gastropods, sipunculid worms Habitat: mostly inhabiting littoral and shallow waters of tropical and subtropical seas, resting in rock crevices or under stones and corals during the day Inedible</p>	<p>Yellow melampus <i>Melampus luteus</i> Muitea</p> <p>Size: maximum 1 cm Feeding habits: feeds on detritus Habitat: shaded woody shores Extra information: land snail Inedible</p>	<p>Banded melampus <i>Melampus fasciatus</i> Muiuli kupukupu</p> <p>Size: maximum 1.2 cm Feeding habits: feeds on detritus Habitat: shaded woody shores; estuarine habitat Extra information: land snail Inedible</p>	<p>Belligerent rock shell <i>Thais argirera</i> Patupatu</p> <p>Shell length: maximum 6 cm, commonly 5 cm Feeding habits: active predator feeding on molluscs, barnacles Habitat: on rocky shores and coral reefs; intertidal and shallow sublittoral zones Edible</p>
<p>Gold ringer cowrie <i>Cypraea annulus</i> Pule tea</p> <p>Size: maximum 4 cm, commonly 3 cm Feeding habits: grazer; feeds most actively at night, browsing on encrusting algae and sponge Habitat: associated with coral reefs, sandy bottoms Inedible</p>	<p>Hebre cone <i>Conus ebraeus</i> Fufu pulepule</p> <p>Size: maximum 4 cm Feeding habits: feeds on marine worms Habitat: intertidal or very shallow sublittoral; in shallow waters Inedible, poisonous</p>	<p>Vermiculate cone <i>Conus chaldeus</i> Fufu kuputea</p> <p>Size: maximum 3 cm Feeding habits: feeds on marine worms Habitat: in sand in shallow intertidal waters Inedible, poisonous</p>	<p>Yellow Pacific cone <i>Conus flavidus</i> Fufu kaki</p> <p>Size: maximum 6 cm, commonly 4 cm Feeding habits: feeds on small coral fishes Habitat: intertidal and shallow sublittoral zones to a depth of 10 m Inedible, poisonous</p>	<p>Marriage cone <i>Conus sponsalis sponsalis</i> Fufu avaava</p> <p>Size: maximum 2.5 cm Feeding habits: feeds on marine worms Habitat: shallow water in intertidal zone Inedible, poisonous</p>	<p>Textile cone <i>Conus textile</i> Fufu</p> <p>Size: maximum 15 cm, commonly 10 cm Feeding habits: mainly feeding on small coral fishes Habitat: intertidal and shallow sublittoral zone to a depth of about 10 m Inedible, very poisonous</p>
<p>Depressed cowrie <i>Cypraea depressa</i> Pule kilakila</p> <p>Size: maximum 6 cm, commonly 4.5 cm Feeding habits: grazer; feeds at night on algal crest and rock platforms Habitat: intertidal and shallow sublittoral zones; in rough waters of reef areas under slabs and stones; or in hollow corals near the wave-swept edge Inedible</p>	<p>Serpent's head cowrie <i>Cypraea caputserpentis</i> Pule ulu gata</p> <p>Size: maximum 4.5 cm, commonly 3.5 cm Feeding habits: grazer; feeds at night on algal crest and rock platforms Habitat: intertidal and shallow sublittoral zones; abundant in coral reefs and rock platforms exposed to wave action Inedible</p>	<p>Humpback cowrie <i>Cypraea mauritiana</i> Pule tua hoe</p> <p>Size: maximum 13 cm, commonly 10 cm Feeding habits: grazer; feeds at night Habitat: littoral and sublittoral zones mainly in low tide and shallow sublittoral level Inedible</p>	<p>Ventral cowrie or tummy cowrie <i>Cypraea ventriculus</i> Pule kalakala uli kikila</p> <p>Size: maximum 7.5 cm, commonly 5 cm Feeding habits: grazer; feeds at night Habitat: shallow water in intertidal and sublittoral zones to a depth of about 30 m Inedible</p>	<p>Tiger cowrie <i>Cypraea tigris</i> Pule taika</p> <p>Size: maximum 15 cm, commonly 9 cm Habitat: abundant on reef areas, on sand among rock or corals Inedible</p>	<p>Common egg cowrie <i>Ovula ovum</i> Pule tea moana</p> <p>Size: maximum 11 cm, commonly 8 cm Habitat: common on the large fleshy soft coral <i>Sarcophyton</i> spp. to a depth of about 20 m Inedible</p>
<p>Fluted giant clam <i>Tridacna squamosa</i> Gēgē</p> <p>Shell length: maximum 40 cm, commonly 30 cm Feeding habits: suspension filter feeder Habitat: attached by a byssus to the surface of coral reefs; littoral and shallow water to a depth of 20 m Edible</p>	<p>Elongate giant clam <i>Tridacna maxima</i> Gēgē</p> <p>Shell length: maximum 35 cm, commonly 25 cm Feeding habits: suspension filter feeder Habitat: partially embedded in corals; littoral and shallow water to a depth of 20 m Edible</p>	<p>Pacific Island helicina <i>Orobophana pacifica</i> Hihi vao</p> <p>Size: maximum 0.4 cm Habitat: land snail Inedible</p>	<p>Scarlet periwinkle <i>Littorina coccinea</i> Hihi muiloa</p> <p>Size: maximum 2.5 cm Feeding habits: grazer Habitat: in the intertidal zone and the splash area well above high tide levels; common on rocky shores Inedible</p>	<p>Polished nerite <i>Nerita polita</i> Hihi lulu</p> <p>Size: maximum 4 cm Feeding habits: grazer Habitat: upper intertidal rocky and coral reef areas; often buried in the sand during the day and emerging at night to graze on nearby rocks Inedible</p>	<p>Plicate nerite <i>Nerita plicata</i> Hihi tea kauahu</p> <p>Size: maximum 3.5 cm Feeding habits: grazer Habitat: upper part of shores often in crevices and pits of rocky benches; moves up and down the shore in correlation with the prevailing high water level of the tide; can withstand heat and desiccation for long periods Edible</p>
<p>Lollyfish <i>Halothuria atra</i> Loli kao, Loli uli</p> <p>Length: maximum 45 cm, commonly 20 cm Feeding habits: feeds on plankton and detritus Habitat: shallow water; mostly found on inner and outer reef flats and back reefs or shallow coastal lagoons Edible</p>	<p>Surf redfish <i>Actinopyga mauritiana</i> Loli maholi</p> <p>Length: maximum 35 cm, commonly 20 cm Feeding habits: feeds on plankton and detritus Habitat: mostly on outer reef flats of barrier reefs and fringing reefs exposed to strong wave action. Edible</p>	<p>Greenfish <i>Stichopus chloronotus</i> Loli gau</p> <p>Length: maximum 35 cm, commonly 18 cm Feeding habits: feeds on plankton and detritus Habitat: mostly found in shallow areas on reef flats and upper slopes; abundant on hard substrates Inedible</p>	<p>White threads fish <i>Halothuria leucospilota</i> Teputulupu</p> <p>Length: maximum 55 cm, commonly 35 cm Feeding habits: feeds on plankton and detritus Habitat: shallow water, mostly found on outer and inner reef flats, back reefs and shallow coastal lagoons Edible</p>	<p>Common spider conch <i>Lambis lambis</i> Pule kufani</p> <p>Shell length: maximum 29 cm, commonly 18 cm Feeding habits: feeds on fine red algae Habitat: common on reef flats and on coral rubble bottoms or in mangrove areas</p>	<p>Trumpet triton <i>Charonia tritonis tritonis</i> Pu</p> <p>Shell length: maximum 45 cm, commonly 30 cm Feeding habits: preys on the large coral-eating starfish <i>Acanthaster planci</i> Habitat: coral reef areas, low intertidal and shallow sublittoral zones, to a depth of about 30 m Inedible</p>
<p>Rock boring urchin <i>Echinometra mathaei</i> Kina</p> <p>Size: maximum 15 cm diameter, commonly 4 to 6 cm Feeding habits: feeds on algae and animal remains Habitat: in holes and depressions on rock in shallow areas Extra information: also brown species Inedible</p>	<p>Rock boring urchin <i>Echinostrephus</i> sp. Vana</p> <p>Size: maximum 5 cm Feeding habits: feeds on algae and animal remains Habitat: in holes and depressions on rock in shallow areas Extra information: also black species Edible</p>	<p>Slate pencil urchin <i>Heterocentrotus mamillatus</i> Ekieki</p> <p>Size: maximum 20 cm diameter Feeding habits: feeds on algae and animal remains Habitat: in holes in the reef littoral and sub-littoral zone Inedible</p>	<p>Mottled Sally-light-foot <i>Grapus albolineatus</i> Kamakama</p> <p>Carapace width: maximum 5 cm Feeding habits: scavenger Habitat: intertidal (rocky splash areas) Edible</p>	<p>Thersite stromb <i>Strombus thersites</i> Pule ulutoki</p> <p>Shell length: maximum 14 cm Feeding habits: forages on algae, seagrass and sand Habitat: intertidal and shallow sublittoral zones to a depth of about 10 m Inedible</p>	<p>Coarse seagrape <i>Caulerpa racemosa</i> Limu fua</p> <p>Size: grows branches up to 10 cm in height Feeding habits: N/A Habitat: lower intertidal and upper sublittoral areas protected from strong wave action; sandy, muddy to rocky coralline substrates Edible</p>
<p>Toothed stolon <i>Caulerpa cupressoides</i> Limu tahi, Limu fiti</p> <p>Size: grows branches up to 10 cm in height Feeding habits: N/A Habitat: grows on sandy substrates with coral rocks in calm and moderately exposed habitats Edible</p>	<p>Snake-like worm shell <i>Dendropoma colubrinus</i> Ugako</p> <p>Shell length: maximum 5 cm, commonly 3.5 cm Feeding habits: mucus-feeder Habitat: common on rocky substrates Edible</p>	<p>Great worm shell <i>Dendropoma maximum</i> Matatue</p> <p>Shell length: maximum 45 cm, commonly 10 cm Feeding habits: algae and animal remains feeder Habitat: abundant on outer parts of coral reefs, partly imbedded among corals Edible</p>	<p>Date mussel <i>Lithophaga</i> sp. Mamene</p> <p>Shell length: maximum 7.5 cm, commonly 5 cm Feeding habits: filter feeder Habitat: bores in soft rocks and dead coral Edible</p>		

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