

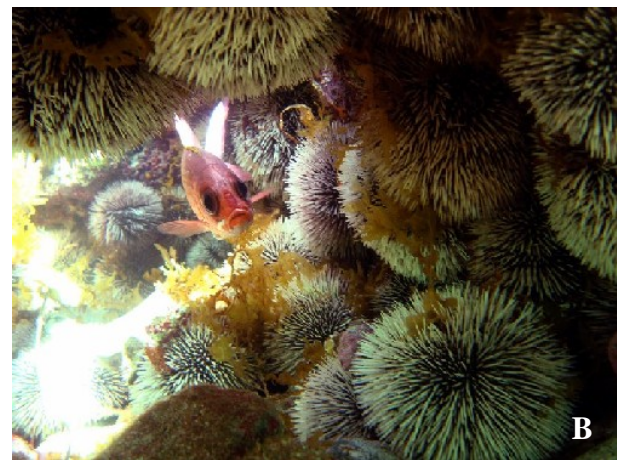
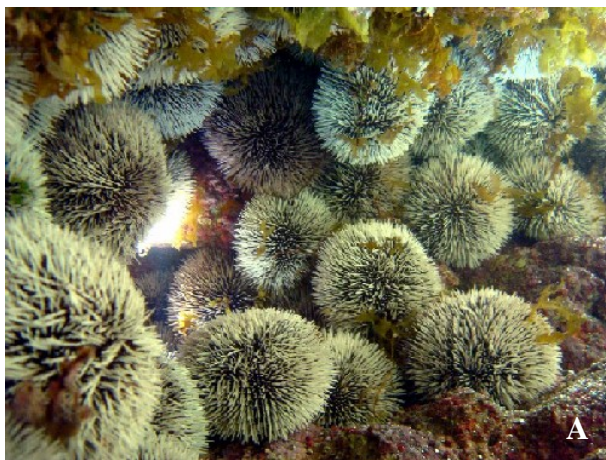


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Original Scientific Photographs

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A numerous population of the white sea-urchin *Tripneustes ventricosus* (Lamarck, 1816) was recorded on long extensions of the Atalaia Beach, Fernando de Noronha Archipelago, Brazil (3°49'S e 32°24'W). The area is home to a reef environment dominated by this sea-urchin, as shown in pictures A and B made in February 2009 at 3 p.m. local time. The species is distributed throughout the occidental and oriental Atlantic Ocean and was first recorded for the archipelago in 1962 (Brito 1962). It was later classified as rare by a study on reef zonation carried out in 1986 (Eston *et al.* 1986). Atalaia Beach is part of the Fernando de Noronha National Marine Park and its reef environments suffer from the impacts caused by the Echinodermata. Sea-urchins are commonly recorded competing for space and food in reef ecosystems (Hughes 1989, Done 1995). Such competition conspicuously impacts these environments, which includes the loss of special characteristics of the reef, such as decreasing zones of reefbuilding corals (scleractinians) in a process known as non-reefbuilding (Done 1995, Done *et al.* 1996). Considering the area's low insular diversity (Eston *et al.* 1986, Simberloff 2000), the increasing presence of these organisms may cause local biodiversity to diminish even more due to interspecific competition. Picture characteristics: Cyber-shot DSC-W90 digital camera; 8.1 megapixels (300 dpi); 2.8 diaphragm opening; 1/40 exposure.

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