CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Crown-of-Thorns Starfish

Acanthaster planci

Acanthaster planci eats reef-building coral by pushing its own stomach out through its mouth, spreading it over the coral like a sheet, and digesting the living tissue off the skeleton in place — lea…

Quick facts

Classification: Invertebrate
Family: Acanthasteridae
Habitat: Coral reefs
Diet: Carnivore
Conservation status: Least Concern
Lifespan: 5-8 years
Weight: 0.5–2.5 kg
Scientific name: Acanthaster planci

Did you know?

- A single adult Crown-of-Thorns Starfish can consume up to 6 square meters of living coral per year.
- It can regrow from a severed arm if part of the central disc goes with it, which is why the old practice of chopping them up made outbreaks worse. Th…

What I learned

© Creature Atlas · www.creatureatlas.com · Free for classroom & personal use