

KEY TO CALIFORNIA GORGONIIDS

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- 15
- 1a. Reticulate; slender branches; color tan, pink or red: Pacifigorgia tenuis.
 - 1b. Not reticulated: (2)
 - 2a. Ring-warted spindles (Lophogorgia): (3)
 - 2b. Other: (9)
 - 3a. Spicules long acute spindles; branchlets slender, 0.6-1.0 mm; branching sparsely subpinnate; calyces small bumps: (4)
 - 3b. Spicules commonly subacute or blunt: (5)
 - 4a. Color white: Lophogorgia casta.
 - 4b. Color tan and orange: Lophogorgia sp. D.
 - 5a. Spicules include both somewhat acute and blunt forms: (6)
 - 5b. Only blunt forms: (8)
 - 6a. Calyces flush; branches long; branching loose: Lophogorgia panamensis.
 - 6b. Calyces not flush: (7)
 - 7a. Slender branchlets, unbranched, 1 mm thick; color white, pink or red: Lophogorgia sp. E.
 - 7b. Calyces subcylindrical; subpinnate branching; color red: Lophogorgia rubra.
 - 8a. Calyces flush; loosely branched; color white: Lophogorgia alba.
 - 8b. Calyces form low mounds, laterally on flattened branchlets; color red: Lophogorgia acuta.
 - 9a. Spicules with double wheels (Eugorgia): (10)
 - 9b. Other: (12)

- 10a. Stem and branchlets about the same diameter; color red: Eugorgia rubens.
- 10b. Branchlets half as thick as branches: (11)
- 11a. Pinnate partly reticulate; color red: Eugorgia sp. A.
- 11b. Loosely branched, long free branchlets: Eugorgia sp. B.
- 12a. Spicules commonly nudibranch shaped (Muriceidae): (13)
- 12b. Other: (16)
- 13a. Spiney nudibranchs; color brown (Muricea): (14)
- 13b. Heavy plates and spinose spicula present (Thesea): (15)
- 14a. Calyx lower lip appressed to stem; living polyps yellow: Muricea appressa.
- 14b. Calyx pour-like, open, or elongate mouth situated on distal side of wart-shaped calyx: Muricea fruticosa.
- 15a. Color tan; heavily branched, 3 mm thick: Thesea effusa.
- 15b. Weakly branched; color white: Thesea variabilis.
- 16a. Calyces flush or very slightly raised: (17)
- 16b. Calyces prominent: (19)
- 17a. Anthocoidea exserta; pink: Muricella complanata
- 17b. Anthocoidea retractile: (18)
- 18a. Spicules slender ring-warted spindles and heavily warted double heads: Swiftia spauldingi.
- 18b. Spicula include irregularly warted forms, double heads and stellate spicula: Psammogorgia teres.
- 19a. Spicules include torches: Adelogorgia phyllosclera.
- 19b. Torches absent: (20)

- 20a. Spicules include irregularly spiney scales, no spindles: Plumarella longispina.
- 20b. Spicules include spindles: (21)
- 21a. Calyces prominent with proximal lip extended and appressed; spicules mostly double-heads; color yellow-brown and red-brown: Nicella guadalupensis.
- 21b. Other: (22)
- 22a. Slender branches often appearing tangled; long acute anthocoidal spindles: (23)
- 22b. Anthocoidea well developed and often exert: (24)
- 23a. Branches moderate, 1.5 mm; calyces evenly distributed; color tan; mostly planar pinnate branching: Heterogorgia angulata.
- 23b. Calyces irregularly distributed on all sides of branches; color white: Heterogorgia tortuosa.
- 24a. Calyces large; branching pinnate: Swiftia kofoidi.
- 24b. Calyces low mounds; branching mostly dichotomous: (25)
- 25a. Color is flesh with white polyps: Swiftia sp. A.
- 25b. Color orange with heavy branches: (26)
- 26a. Anthocoidea red; deep water: Swiftia simplex.
- 26b. Anthocoidea white; shallow water: Swiftia marki.