

Chiton

Classification

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Mollusca

Class: Polyplacophora

Genus: *Chiton*



(For Further details [link](#))

Habit and habitat

Nocturnal: Most chitons are active at night, seeking food and returning to their hiding places before daylight.

Herbivorous: They primarily feed on algae, but some species also consume sponges and bryozoans.

Home-returning: Many chiton species exhibit homing behavior, returning to specific locations after foraging.

Intertidal and Subtidal Zones: The majority of chitons live in the intertidal zone, the area between high and low tide marks, and the shallow subtidal zone just below it.

Rocky Shores: They are commonly found on hard surfaces like rocks, rock crevices, and under rocks.

Deep Water: Some species, especially in colder regions, can be found in deeper waters, down to 6,000 meters or more.

Characteristic

- It is a marine animal of cosmopolitan distribution.
- It is found attached to stones and rocks (coral reefs) between tide marks.
- Body is elliptical and is convex on dorsal and flat on ventral surface. Shell is present on dorsal side and is made up of 8 transverse and overlapping calcareous plates arranged in linear-zones.
- Around the plates is present the mantle which is covered thickly with spicules.
- On the ventral surface the major portion is occupied by foot.
- Between foot and mantle is present the mantle groove which is having about 80 ctenidia like gills on either side of foot.
- Behind the foot, in the middle, lies the anal pore and in front of the foot in the middle segmented lies a large head with small opening —the mouth, but there are no eye or tentacles.
- On one side in the mantle groove is present a genital and an excretory pore.
- Sexes are separate, gonad is single and Development through trochophore larva.
- Nocturnal, herbivorous (feeding on algae) and are used for decoration and as food.