



“CRITTER OF THE MONTH”

CROWN OF THORNS STAR FISH



Notorious for its depredation of our coral reefs , it feeds on living corals, leaving behind white patches of dead coral. Periodic population explosions have generated alarm however we are not seeing extensive damage in South Maui. The large TRITONS TRUMPET is it's only trus predator. However, this is also a very popular shell for shell collector to take...upsetting natures balance by doing so. The tiny but voracious Harlequin Shrimp have also been known to prey on them... Although this star is actually brownish in color, it appears green at depths of 30' or more. WARNING: DO NOT TRY TO PICK THEM UP WITH YOUR HANDS!!!!

**DATE OF REPORT: DECEMBER 1, 2017
DIVE SITE: KEAWAKAPU OUTSIDE REEF
WATER TEMP. : 81 DEPTH: 45'
PHOTO BY : STEVE MADARAS**

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**(SOME TEXT TAKEN FROM “HAWAII’S SEA CREATURES”, by
J.P.HOOVER)**



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