



MONTEREY BAY ALGAE

AN ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO
APPRECIATING ALGAE

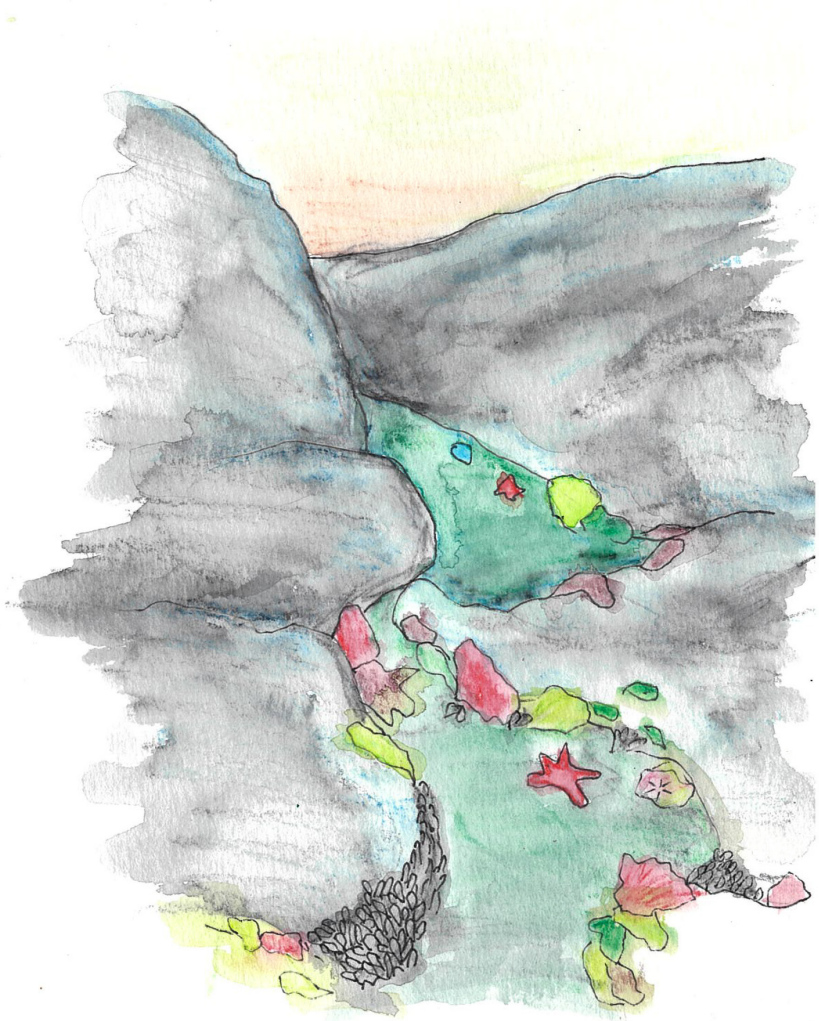


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NATURAL HISTORY

WHAT'S AN ALGAE?

Like plants, algae contain chlorophyll and photosynthesize sunlight,

but unlike plants, they lack certain complex structures like
vascular tissue, true stems, roots, and leaves.



TIDE POOL DIVERSITY

It is advisable to look from the tide pool to the stars and then back to the tide pool again.

—John Steinbeck, The Log from the Sea of Cortez

Tidepools are little worlds teeming with life.

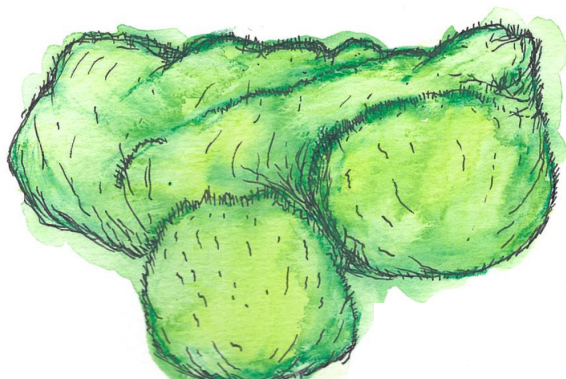
Find a pool and sit there.

How many different animals, plants, fossils, and algae do you see?

Sit still

Watch for movement.

Look for specific colors, look for certain shapes. *Listen* to the waves roll in, to the splashes, to the dripping, to the wind. *Smell* the salty air.



GREEN PIN CUSHION

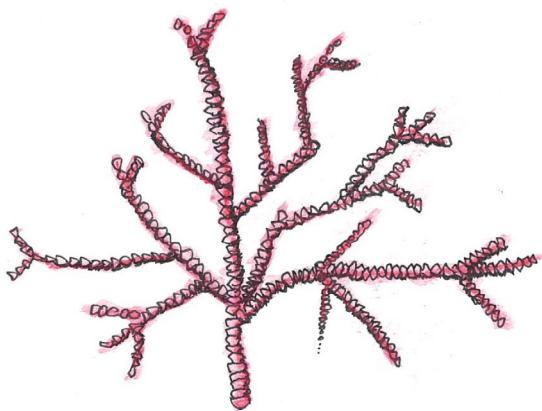
Cladophora columbiana

LOOKS LIKE MOSS,
DON'T YOU THINK?

CORALLINE

Calliarthon spp.

FEELS CRUNCHY BECAUSE OF
CALCIUM CARBONATE IN ITS CELL
WALLS — THE SAME STUFF THAT
MAKE UP SHELLS!





TAR SPOT

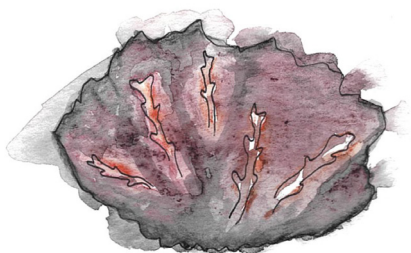
Mastocarpus spp.

THIS IS A DIFFERENT LIFE STAGE OF THE TURKISH WASHCLOTH ALGAE THAT YOU'LL SEE LATER IN THIS GUIDE

IRIDESCENT

Mazzaella Flaccida

COMPARE ITS SHINY, IRIDESCENT QUALITY WHEN IT IS OUT OF THE WATER TO WHEN IT IS SUBMERGED

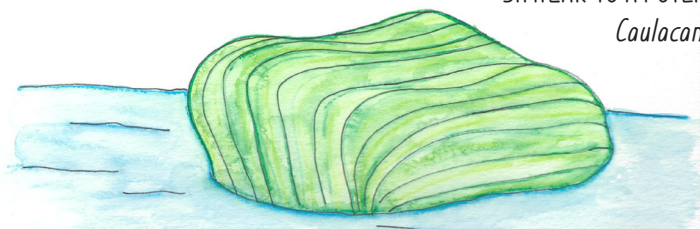


SCOURING PAD

Endocladia muricata

THIS NATIVE SPECIES IS VERY VISUALLY SIMILAR TO A POTENTIALLY INVASIVE SPECIES,

Caulacanthus ustulatus.



SURF GRASS

Phyllospadix spp.

SWEEPING OVER THE TIDEPools OF PLEASURE POINT IN CAPITOLA, CA, THIS IS ONE OF FEW ACTUAL PLANTS IN THE OCEAN. SEE IF YOU CAN SPOT ITS FLOWERS!

FORAGING FOR FOOD

The Awaswas speaking people of Santa Cruz called kelp *rukchena* and up and down the coast of California people have harvested this and other types of algae for thousands of years. The following are prized edible algae.

Before you start foraging for food from the ocean

1. research collecting laws and regulations
2. know what you're taking
3. be a good steward of the ocean by prioritizing collecting invasive species, only taking what you can use, and harvesting in a way that lets the algae continue to grow



NORI

Pyropia spp.

THE SEAWEED OF SUSHII

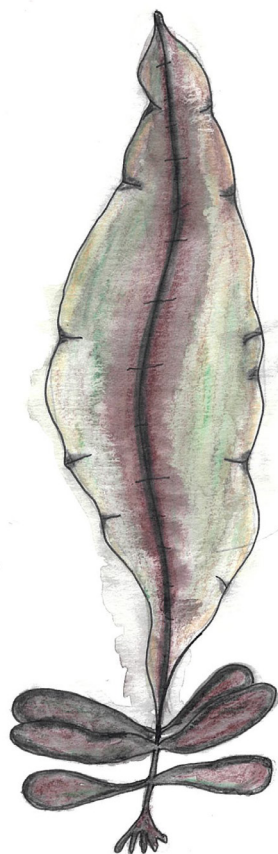


SEA LETTUCE

Ulva spp.

ROCKWEED

Fucus distichus



WAKAME OR WINGED KELP

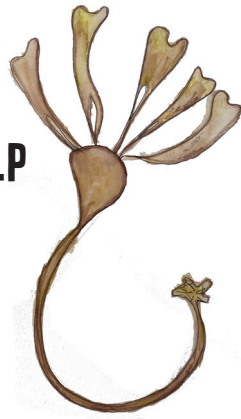
Alaria marginata

WHILE THIS IS THE NATIVE SPECIES, WE RECOMMEND
HARVESTING THE VISUALLY SIMILAR *Undaria pinnatifida*
WHICH IS INVASIVE IN CALIFORNIA



BULLWHIP KELP

Nereocystis luetkeana



KOMBU OR STIFF-STIPED KELP

Laminaria setchellii



TURKISH WASHCLOTH

Mastocarpus papillatus

GIANT KELP

Macrocystis pyrifera

NOTES

NOTES

WITH THANKS

We relied heavily on the work of Kirk Lombard's book *The Sea Forager's Guide to the Northern California Coast* and the LIMPETS citizen science platform.

This guide was written and illustrated by Marisa Gomez, Public Programs Manager at the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History.



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