Littorina sitkana – sitka periwinkle

Very stout snail! Globose shell with four whorls.

The lowest whorl is really stout (about half the shell length)!

Snail itself is black.

The shell is black, grey, or orange-brown.

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Shell can be ribbed.

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Shell sometimes has a light coloured stripe (see on the top).

They can be up to 2.2cm long.

Mostly live in the very high or supra tidal but you might find them all the way down to the top of the low intertidal.

Lazy as hell! Move 1m per month.

They prefer protected areas – either wave-sheltered sites or crevices on rocks.

Added benefit of dessication stress!

Very high in intertidal so serious concern.

They stay in dark/moist cervices and under the canopy of macroalgae like fucus.

Eat lots of microalgae.

Eaten by bigger snails, gastropods, crabs, fish, birds (food chain).

Fun fact: reproduce sexually and stick eggs to the rock! Larvae (yolk of the egg) eat the rest of the egg and hatch into tiny shells which crawl around. Non-pelagic larvae!