Littorina sitkana – sitka periwinkle

So I was on the phone with my dad this morning – he’s recently retired from a desk job he didn’t really like that he’s been working for the past 20 years. We’re really stoked for him its reall great (go Mark), and he’s a bike guy now, spending lots of time in the garden, etc. He’s really into growing his own food – produce and stuff, and he’s actually started a snail farm

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!

--- so many more funfacts but if you wanna learn more you’ll have to read our ID guide because we’re out of time ---

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!