

Marine Mollusks Dichotomous Key

(for Specimens 1-12)

- 1a. The body of the shell has a whorl or spiral appearance.....Go to #2
1b. The body of the shell does not have a whorl or spiral appearance.....Go to #7
- 2a. The body of the shell is decorated with nodes or spines.....Go to #3
2b. The body of the shell is smooth and not decorated with nodes or spines.....Go to #5
- 3a. The shell spirals towards the left (is left-handed).....**Lightning Whelk**
3b. The shell spirals towards the right (is right-handed).....Go to #4
- 4a. The shell has a number of spiny vertical ridges that run the length of the shell.....**Apple Murex**
4b. The shell does not have spiny vertical ridges that run the length of the shell....**Florida Fighting Conch**
- 5a. The shell is spherically shaped (shaped like a ball).....**Atlantic Moon Snail**
5b. The shell is not spherically shaped.....Go to #6
- 6a. There are numerous, widely-spaced brown lines spiraling up shell surface.....**Banded Tulip**
6b. There are no brown lines spiraling up shell surface.....**Lettered Olive**
- 7a. The shell has concentric growth lines radiating from the hinge line.....Go to #8
7b. The shell does not have concentric growth lines.....Go to #9
- 8a. The shell has a distinctive yellow band along the inside edge.....**Buttercup Lucine**
8b. The shell does not have a distinctive yellow band along the inside edge.....**Quahog**
- 9a. The shell has ears along its hinge line.....**Calico Scallop**
9b. The shell does not have ears along its hinge line.....Go to #10
- 10a. The shell is rather flat, with digit-like ribs.....**Kitten's Paw**
10b. The shell is not flat, and doesn't have digit-like ribs.....Go to #11
- 11a. The shell has small spines along its ribs.....**Prickly Cockle**
11b. The shell does not have small spines along its ribs.....**Giant Atlantic Cockle**