

Yankeetown Echinoids

Yankeetown is located on the west coast just north of Crystal River where the Withlacoochee River empties into the Gulf of Mexico. From Orlando, take Hwy. 50 west to 98, go north on 19, turn left onto 40 till the road ends. You won't miss it. You'll need a small boat or canoe to get to several small spoil islands. The first island is only a few hundred feet from the boat ramp.

Wear old shoes. Bring a small shovel or spade and a bucket or other containers to bring back your finds. Most echinoids can be surface collected but don't be fooled because a lot are covered with algae growth or matrix or buried in the sand. Low tide will expose all the oyster bars that line the channel, also giving more echinoid hunting area.

They range from the size of a BB to about 2-1/2 inches.

The most common echinoid found here would be the *Eupatagus antillarum*. Others found are *Schizaster armiger*, *Oligopygus wetherbyi*, *Cataopyus mississippiensis*, *Weisbozdella cubae* and *Periarchus floridanus*.

