

TERRESTRIAL ANIMALS

Phylum <i>Parathropoda</i>	Subphylum <i>Pentapoda</i>	Class <i>Symimsectaformes</i>
Subclass	Order <i>Henderhymenoptera</i>	Family <i>Rotaformicidae</i>

# Disk-Ant

*Rotaformica hendersi*

The "disk-ant" was the first animal life encountered on Henders Island. With a ring-shaped brain, this rolling pack hunter no bigger than a half-dollar carries three generations of offspring on its back.

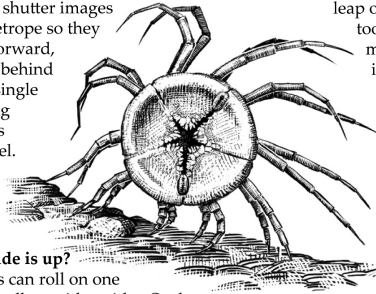


Are they related to Starfish?  
No, disk-ants are distant relatives of insects!

**HENDER NOTE:** *These were the most feared of all the animals on our island. We traveled high in the trees to avoid coming into contact with them, since they tended to stay closer to the ground.*

### Zoetrope eyes

Disk-ants can roll on one edge at high speeds, seeing through a highly sophisticated array of eyes that shutter images like a zoetrope so they can see forward, above or behind them in single unmoving images as they travel.



### Which side is up?

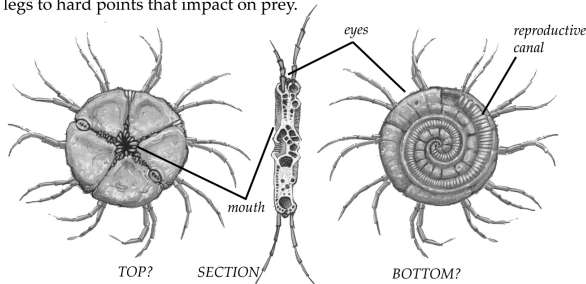
Disk-ants can roll on one edge or walk on either side. Or they can fling themselves through the air, retracting their legs to hard points that impact on prey.

### Nano-bugs

When disk-ants attack, thousands of microscopic young leap off their backs and attack, too. Their victims appear to melt where the nano-ants inflict a wound.

### Babies on Babies

Disk-ants carry their young on one side, and their offspring reproduce immediately, carrying their young on their backs, down to the size of dust-mites. Each disk-ant is really a colony of thousands of individuals.



Size <i>1mm to 1cm</i>	Reproduction <i>hermaphrodite, bears live young</i>	Diet <i>Omnivore</i>
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A Field Guide to Henders Island