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Skeletal deformations in the sea-urchin *Tripneustes gratilla* (L.) under pollution conditions in the Gulf of Elat, Red Sea

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Deviations from the normal growth pattern are shown by populations of Tripneustes gratilla on polluted beaches in the northern Gulf of Elat. Populations in an artificial basin show extreme flattening of the test and deep aboral depressions. Sea-urchins from the beach of a power and desalination plant had exaggerated height to diameter size ratio and an irregular inflation of the aboral part of the test. Interference with the calcification process is thought to be involved in both deformation types. Abnormal vertical directed growth that followed caused the deformed power plant population.