

Parting Shot 1

Just after the pandemic reached us I decided to renew my underwater equipment. Time enough to study the settings, knobs and dials of my new camera and housing. And our garden could be used as a test lab for the camera, flowers and insects were perfect macro opportunities. Also it was time to deepen my knowledge so I followed an online course by a famous British underwater photographer. An excellent reboot. After that, there was little left than dream away till we had the opportunity to step into the water again.

Finally the day broke on that we could dive in the salt water lake in the south of our country. However, at the moment we wanted to get in, my lack of experience became apparent. I had forgotten to set back the cap of the valve system and had left it on my desk. After frantic telephone calls and a drive to a shop the valve system was replaced by a simple plug. By now, it was late in the afternoon. A little agitated I stepped into the water, but as the sun broke through the nice underwater calmness returned. Finally underwater, and look at the low sun! Time to use my acquired knowledge to catch the mood; no exciting subjects around, let's appreciate this algae.

The resulting image reminds me of the fantastic feeling to be under water again. And the chances local waters give us to improve our photography, till we can open up our horizons again.

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Agardhiella subulata in lake Grevelingen, Netherlands.

Olympus EM-5 III, Nauticam housing, Olympus 12-42 and Nauticam WWL-1, Sea&Sea YS-01 strobes, 42mm, f/5.6, 1/100 sec, ISO 200.

**Do you have a shot
which has a story within a story?
If so e mail it with up to 500 words of text
and yours could be the next Parting Shot.
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Parting Shot 2

After I jump in, on my way to the bottom I straighten out my strobe arms and position my strobes to a likely place for an image, turn on my camera and strobes and then look for subjects.

I was just about at this point when a scrawled filefish, *Aluterus scriptus*, appeared to be coming straight towards me, something most fish generally do not do. The majority of fish tend to turn tail and head in the opposite direction from bubble blowing divers.

Without looking at any settings, I put my camera rig between myself and a collision and pulled the trigger without even looking in the viewfinder.

The filefish veered off and continued on its way as I reviewed my shot. I usually try and set something reasonable on the camera when I put it into my housing after pumping the vacuum and in this case it all worked out: f/13, 1/100sec, ISO320.

I also nearly 100% of the time shoot with TTL strobe exposure, which nearly 100% of the time gives me a perfect exposure even with fast approaching subjects that are unpredictable. Had I needed to reach up to change the power setting on my strobes the fish and photo would have been long gone and/or over exposed had I been shooting on manual.

As the old saying goes but this time reversed, forearmed is forewarned.



Canon EOS 5D mark III in an Ikelite housing with a Canon EF16-35mm f/4 IS USM lens at 35mm, 2 x Ikelite 161 strobes in TTL mode. f/13, 1/100sec, ISO320.

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Marshall's Mysteries - Answers

A



Tuberculate Night Anemone (*Alicia pretiosa*).

Carnivorous and asexual, ie can reproduce from either a single cell or a group of cells, in the absence of any sexual process such as fertilization.

Contain nematocysts that can "deliver a memorable sting" to capture prey and for defense. A nematocyst has a trigger which, if activated, fires a shaft in microseconds, delivering a toxin. Another good reason to not touch anything underwater, regardless of whether it looks soft and pretty...!

More detail on this anemone can be found on pages 328-29 of "Indo-Pacific Corals" by Joe Rowlett.

B



Mysis (*Idiomysis* sp), ie a crustacean.

Idiomysis have relatively large, puppy-like, endearing, eyes.

Sometimes called (Hovering) Opossum Shrimps (but they are not shrimps) because, similar to opossums, the female mysids rear their larvae in a brood pouch or marsupium.

Mysids can be cannibalistic, with adults sometimes preying on their young once they emerge from the marsupium. Not sure if the cute *Idiomysis* has these urges...

This Mysis can be found on page 145 of "Coral Reef Crustaceans from Red Sea to Papua" by Andrey Ryanskiy.

C



Juvenile Graeff's Sea Cucumber (*Pearsonothuria graeffei*, previously *Bohadschia graeffei*), which mimics poisonous *Phyllidia nudibranches*, notably the two below.



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Celestial Phyllidia (*Phyllidia coelestis*)

The adult, shown on the right, is obviously much larger than the juvenile and would be less successful in mimicking the much smaller toxic *Phyllidia nudibranches*. By this adult stage the sea cucumber have neuro-toxins of their own (allegedly similar to cocaine) in their cuvierian tubes that they eject from the anus when threatened.

More detail on this Sea Cucumber can be found on page 83 of "Starfishes and Other Echinoderms from the Tropical Indo-Pacific" by Andrey Ryanskiy.



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Swollen Phyllidia (*Phyllidia varicosa*)



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If you think any of the identifications or information above is wrong, please let me know at colintrmarshall@yahoo.com. Feel free to send me any images of anything you'd like some help in identifying – any particularly interesting mysteries may be included in future Underwater Photography issues.

D

The Sweetlips juveniles & adults in the question are shown below, including intermediate phases. There are many reasons for the variation in patterns & colours, including :

- signaling sexual maturity
- camouflage (appearance may need to change if the fish moves to different feeding environments as it matures)
- disruptive patterns (to break up the fishlike outline)
- confuse predators with stripes (think of zebra herds) and spots (false eyespots)
- deliberately appearing different to the adults (who are targeted by predators)
- mimicry, for example, the juvenile Many-spotted Sweetlips mimics a toxic nudibranch or flatworm, even in its motion - head pointing down and undulating wildly

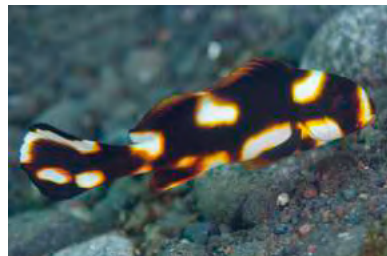
Painted Sweetlips aka Mother-in-Law Fish (*Diagramma pictum*)

D¹**D⁵**

Many-spotted Sweetlips aka Harlequin Sweetlips (*Plectorhinchus chaetodonoides*)

D²**D⁶**

Oriental Sweetlips aka Oriental Blubberlips (*Plectorhinchus vittatus*)

D³**D⁴**

More detail on these Sweetlips can be found on pages 471-78 of Volume II of "Reef Fishes of the East Indies" by Gerry Allen and Mark Erdmann.

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