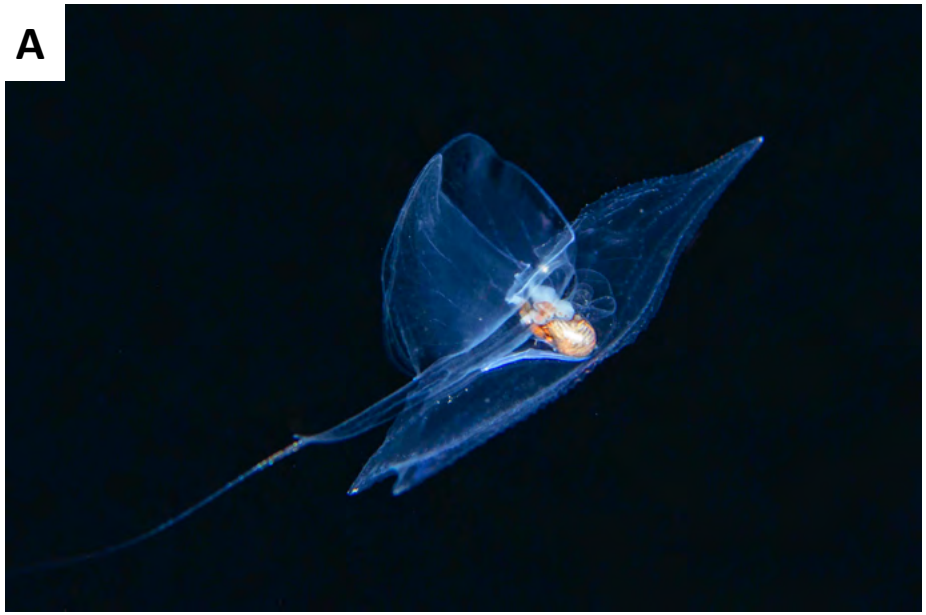
Marshall's Mysteries 7

A



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Seraya, Bali, Indonesia — animal about 1 cm across

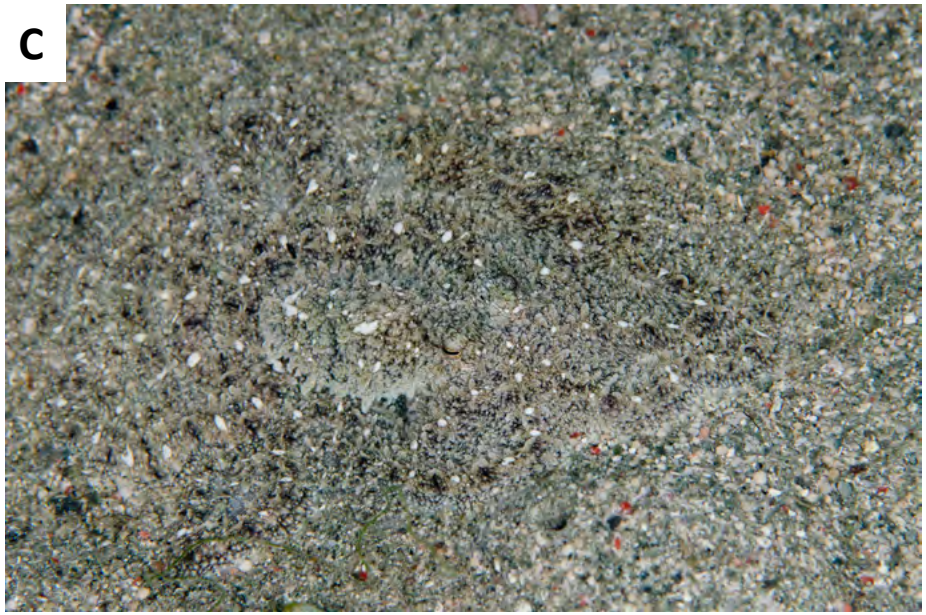
Do you know what these animals are, or what they are doing? Have a guess – answers on page 61.

B

© Colin Marshall / FLPA / Minden

Lembeh, Sulawesi, Indonesia
image about 20 cm tall

C



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Komodo National Park, Indonesia — image about 20 cm across

D

© Colin Marshall / FLPA / Minden

Lembeh, Sulawesi, Indonesia — image about 40 cm across

Guidelines for contributors

The response to UwP has been nothing short of fantastic. We are looking for interesting, well illustrated articles about underwater photography. We are looking for work from existing names but would also like to discover some of the new talent out there and that could be you! UwP is the perfect publication for you to increase your profile in the underwater photography community.

The type of articles we're looking for fall into five main categories:

Uw photo techniques - Balanced light, composition, etc
Locations - Photo friendly dive sites, countries or liveaboards,
Subjects -, Anything from whale sharks to nudibranchs in full detail
Equipment reviews - Detailed appraisals of the latest equipment
Personalities - Interviews/features about leading underwater photographers

If you have an idea for an article,
contact me first before putting pen to paper.
E mail peter@uwpmag.com

How to submit articles

To keep UwP simple and financially viable, we can only accept submissions by e mail and they need to be done in the following way:

1. The text should be saved as a TEXT file and attached to the e mail
2. Images must be attached to the e mail and they need to be 150dpi

Size - Maximum length 20cm i.e. horizontal pictures would be 20 cm wide and verticals would be 20cm high.

File type - Save your image as a JPG file and set the compression to "Medium" quality. This should result in images no larger than about 120k which can be transmitted quickly. If we want larger sizes we will contact you.

3. Captions - **Each and every image MUST have full photographic details** including camera, housing, lens, lighting, film, aperture, shutter speed and exposure mode. These must also be copied and pasted into the body of the e mail.

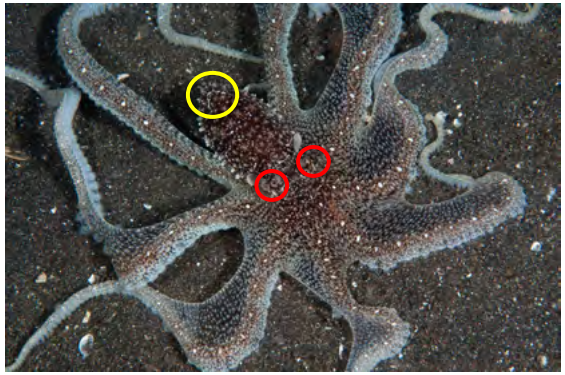
Marshall's Mysteries 7 - Answers

A

Kingfisher-like Sea Butterfly (Cymbulia peronii), flying by during a Blackwater night dive.

A Pteropod, a pelagic sea snail (mollusc) that follows its prey, ie plankton, drifting up to the sea surface during the night, returning to the safer depths (deeper than 100 meters) in the morning.

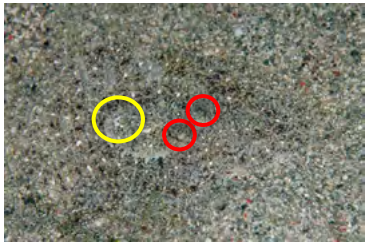
The "wings" are a modified gastropodal "foot". Interestingly, it is actually swimming backwards, ie facing the opposite direction it is moving in. If under attack, it reverses direction to escape at a (relatively) incredible speed of 7 times its body length *per second.*



© Colin Marshall

Lembeh, Sulawesi, Indonesia

B



White-V Octopus (Abdopus sp) exquisitely camouflaged in sand.

Image below is of same species, hunting on black sand, with extended tentacles.

Diagnostic characteristics are the spots on the body and the "V" on the head (circled in yellow in both images along with eyes in red). However, these markings are not always obvious on these highly changeable octopi.

Abdopus sp octopi have been observed "walking" on sand, ie in air, to access separate rock pools in exposed intertidal flats.

Kawashima et al wrote in the Biological Bulletin (Feb 2020) regarding the ability of Abdopus aculateus (the Algae Octopus) to recognize objects, both real and virtual (ie images on a screen).

This intelligence is implied by the fact their brain sizes, relative to their body, is similar to higher vertebrates (ie some mammals).

C

Blueberry Gorgonian Fan (Anthogorgia cf caerulea, previously Acalycigorgia sp).

Blue is a relatively rare color in nature. Evolutionary reasons for the blue coloration can be confusing as it may be the resulting *smell*, as opposed to the actual color, that brings the advantage for the coral. In this case the blue is from guaiazulene, a crystalline hydrocarbon.

The little "bugs" on the coral are amphipods (crustaceans), aka sand fleas, similar to the Ladybug Amphipod (Cyproideidae family) shown on the right (there are c. 10,000 amphipod species (mostly marine), out there). These amphipods are likely suspension feeding, ie using the coral to catch plankton.

© Colin Marshall

Seraya, Bali, Indonesia

More detail on this coral *can be found on pages 134-35 of "Indo-Pacific Corals" by Joe Rowlett.*

D

Trapezium Horse Conch (Pleuroplaca trapezium) attacking a Cockle (Acrosterigma sp) on black sand during night dive; a very slow-moving assassination.

These seashells can be found on pages 126 and 242 of "Living Seashells of the Tropical Indo-Pacific" by Andrey Ryanskiy.

The predatory Conch attacker is shown more clearly below.

© Colin Marshall / FLPA / Minden

Lembeh, Sulawesi, Indonesia

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.

Parting Shot(s)

I had been at the Atlantis Resort in Dumaguete, Philippines for several days and had shot harlequin ghost pipefish, Solenostomus paradoxus, on nearly half the dives so I almost passed on this tiny one.

The guide who had pointed it out was hovering above so I wanted to pull the trigger a few times to let him know I appreciated his tireless efforts in locating subjects for me.

It was not until I got back home to Hawaii and was going through images that I saw not one, but two brittlestar hitchhikers wrapped around the pipefish!

Brittlestars are tasty morsels for many predators on the reef and for this reason they only venture out on the reef at night and stay completely hidden during the day. I have never seen this behavior or even another photo of this partnership. I assume the brittlestars get free transportation, although, like a dog chasing a car, what do you do when you catch your ride? To drop off the pipefish would make them an easy snack for the many nearby fish.

Regardless, I was pleased my guide had pointed out this individual.

David Fleetham
www.davidfleetham.com

Shot with a Canon 5D mark IV and a Canon EF100mm macro lens, 1/125 sec, F22, ISO 320,in an Ikelite dry-lock housing with twin Ikelite 161 strobes set to underexpose by 2/3 stop on TTL in the Philippines.

**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.**
peter@uwpmag.com