

Quick Takes

by David Fleetham

There is a cleaning station off the island of Yap named Stammtisch. Manta rays regularly come into the top of the reef, which is just 10 feet below the surface, to get cleaned.

After waiting for the mantas to come back I noticed that the fish here were very conditioned to the presence of bubble blowing intruders and I spent several subsequent dives with a macro lens chasing fish portraits. I had seen slingjaw wrasse, *Epibulus insidiator*, on several occasions perform their signature move with their highly protrusible jaws without attempting to capture prey. This species has several unique ligaments and cranial bones that enable its jaw to protrude at a rapid speed along with length to capture small fish and crustaceans. At Stammtisch I followed one that was indifferent to my presence and twice I was in the right place at the right time.

David Fleetham
www.davidfleetham.com



Manta: Canon EOS R5 mirrorless in an Ikelite dry-lock housing with a Canon RF15-30mm zoom lens @14mm, 1/100 sec, F14, ISO 160, with two Ikelite 230 strobes on TTL
Both shots below: Canon EOS R5 mirrorless in an Ikelite dry-lock housing with a Sigma 70mm macro lens, 1/100 sec, F22, ISO 100, with two Ikelite 230 strobes on TTL



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and yours could be the next 'Quick Takes'

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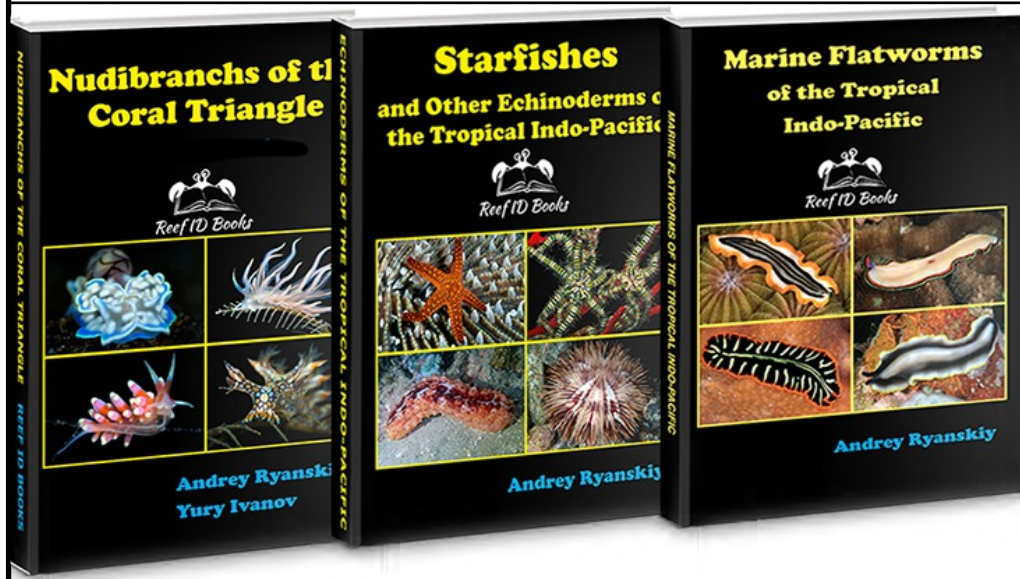
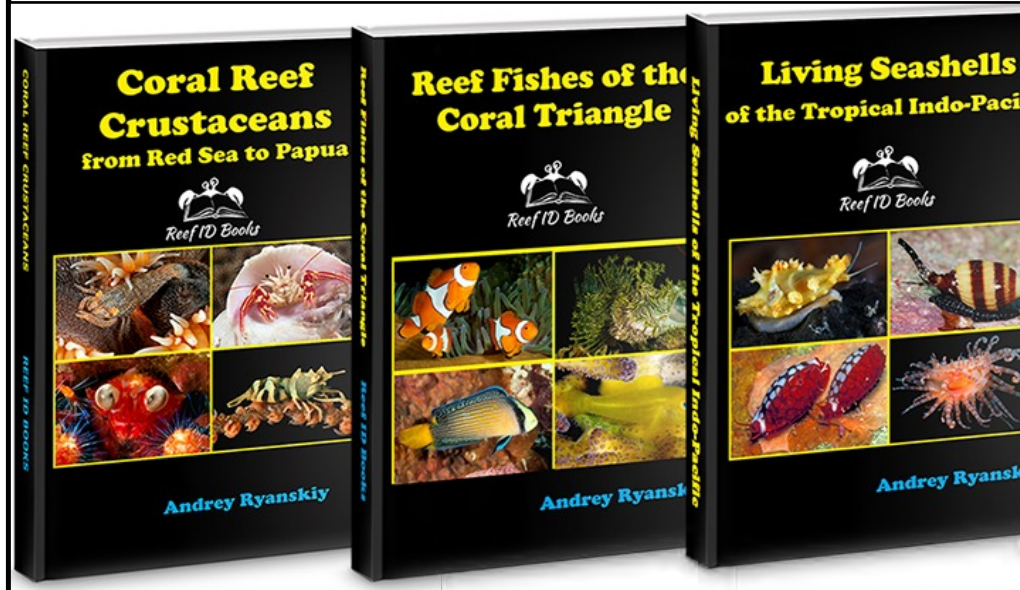


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