

Marshall's Mysteries 24

Answers on
page 82

Camouflaged Critters. The images below seem to be a study in nothing-ness! But there are often gems in the rubble. This is why most of us need eagle-eyed guides, like the great guide “Man” in Lembeh (@abdulrahmantampilang on Instagram), who I clearly remember showing me “C” below! Can you spot the critters?

A

© Colin Marshall



Raja Ampat, Indonesia

Image about 10 cm across

C

© Colin Marshall



Dili, East Timor

Image about 15 cm across

B

© Colin Marshall / nature in stock



Dili, East Timor

Image about 20 cm across

D

© Colin Marshall / FLPA / Minden



Alor, Indonesia

Image about 10 cm across

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Marshall's Mysteries 24 - Answers

A



Stumpy-spined Cuttlefish (aka Dwarf Cuttlefish; *Ascarosepion bandense*; re-named in 2023, from *Sepia bandensis*). Eye circled in red.

The clearer image below shows the Cuttlefish using one of its two feeding tentacles to catch a Goby.



Like many Cephalopods, they can quickly change colour & pattern for camouflage & communication, as shown by the pair below.

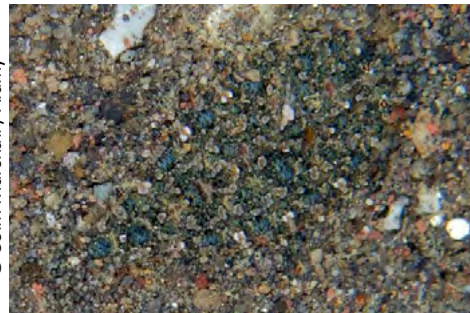


B



Blotched Flounder, *Asterorhombus intermedius* (eyes circled in red).

Like Cephalopods, flatfishes can change colour to camouflage, using chromatophores, specialized cells with colour pigments, which can be activated to match the surrounding sand pattern, as shown by the same fish in the images above & below.



This Flounder also has a lure (circled below), which is actually the first (modified) dorsal fin.



C



Simplex Shrimp (aka Snake Eel Shrimp; *Phyllognathia simplex*), circled in red.

Shown in more detail below, the first, with added detritus to make it even more camouflaged, feeding on a small Sea Star.



Simplex Shrimps are in the same family as Harlequin Shrimps (often seen munching on large Sea Stars) and, my favorite, Tiger Shrimps. This night dive (in East Timor) is the only time that I have seen the Simplex Shrimp.

D



This is a partially buried Goram Dragonet (*Diplogrammus goramensis*), the eye circled in red.

The image below shows what it looks like when it is not buried in its preferred habitat, sand rubble.

Clearly does not rely solely on being buried; its pattern works well to camouflage the fish even when on the surface of the sand.



To see a collection of my favorite images, land and sea, follow me on Instagram (@colintrmarshall).

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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.