

Parting Shot

Bigger is better!? Not always. Looking around for a suitable christmas present to myself I found a last minute trip right before Christmas to Cape Verde. As I had not been there before and I was not interested in going again to Egypt it was not hard to make a decision. And as I am a freelancer it was quite easy to explain to my "boss" how good an offer it is. Although I had only one week for preparing my trip, everything ran its course. From the internet I found that on Sal island which was my destination there are not very many dive centers. The only one who gave me quick answer was Cabo Verde Diving (www.caboverdediving.net). Their customer friendly service and professional guides were on highest level.

To get a wow experience you do not need always big numbers on your computer display. It was our second dive of the day and about in ten meter depth. The surroundings were quite boring but the bottom was terraced and therefore there was a long line of smaller and bigger overhangs and tiny caves. My buddy was Sahin Okay from the Netherlands. As an experienced diver with more than 500+ dives around the world, he knew that a torch may be needed

also in shallow daytime dives. This time his powerful Green Force HID 100 Compact was worth of carrying. Looking under the ledges, we found big lobsters, sleeping stingrays and many other wonderful sea creatures. Suddenly Sahin started to act very queerly, turned upside down, tried to crawl in to a bucket-sized grotto and then showed me some strange signs. What I understood was that someone was eating someone. There was only 20-30 cm high slot under the ledge and in the far end I saw a porcupinefish laying there. But something was wrong in that scene. I did not see his tail and he did not move. As it was impossible to get closer to get a better view I decided to use my camera. After little digging and moving some small stones I was able to put my camera (in Ikelite housing with 8" dome port and a pair of Ikelite strobes) into a more or less suitable position. For myself there was no space and I had to shoot blind. Not seeing what I was taking pictures of, I took several frames changing a little my camera's and lights position. And what a surprise when I looked at the display. Yellowmouth moray (*Gymnothorax nudivomer*) has crabbed a Spot-fin porcupinefish (*Diodon hystrix*) but of



course it was too big catch for him. He could not swallow this fish and could not release his pray either as there was no space to open his mouth more... I am not sure who won this battle, but according to Sahin words few days later Spot-fin porcupinefish with the bite marks around his back fins was seen near the same spot. So we believe that the porcupinefish survived.

To get this final picture with all these cardinal fishes (*Apogon imberbis*) and spider crabs (*Chirostylus dolichopus*) and the nose of porcupinefish I had to use Photoshop and stitch two frames into panorama.

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Do you have an image which has a 'story within a story'? If so we'd love to hear from you.

**E mail us and yours could be
the next "Parting shot".**
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