

Editorial

Camouflage

Mark Webster's excellent cover shot is another example of how different UwP can be compared to conventional magazines but it also highlights something which the underwater world has in abundance compared to its terrestrial counterpart.

True there are land animals which, because of their colour and markings, can blend into a background but there are only a few that can actually change colour to achieve the same effect and I don't think they are as spectacular.

Underwater we have numerous masters of colour change disguise including the amazing Mimic octopus which can look like other marine creatures and then there's cuttlefish which can not only change colour but texture as well!

Mark Webster's scorpion fish is another good example followed by several flat fish yet at the other end of the spectrum, so to speak, we have some vividly coloured nudibranchs which, it is believed, use their colour as a warning that they are either distasteful or poisonous.

Whatever the reason for their colour we are blessed with an abundance of colourful subjects.

Discovery Shark Week

I'm lucky that my doctor forbade me to subscribe to the Discovery Channel a long time ago but in the interests of research I snuck a peek on the intercom and watched some edited 'highlights' (their word, definitely not mine) of this year's 'celebration'.

How long can the shark actually survive on this planet when it is universally depicted in the media as a man-eater and, when it does what it does naturally, it must be hunted down and shot. Then there is the campaign to ban shark finning which struggles to find widespread support because of the Discovery fed population (oh and organised crime, of course)

How long do we have to put up with such gratuitous sensationalism masquerading as education? Well I might just have an answer.

If all those underwater cameramen would stop pandering to the corporate suits in the commissioning departments of every TV network and refuse to be part of the grossest miscarriage of justice in the animal kingdom, we might have a chance.

The doctor will see you now, Mr Rowlands

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