

My Shot

On a recent trip to Lembah, I spared no opportunity to shoot. Whenever there was no night dive scheduled by boat, we would grab a tank and explore the house reef at the resort. I had been trying to refine the reverse ring macro (RRM) technique. This was perfect for house reef, as I would not be holding up the dive guides. Although it is a primitive style of macro, Imran Ahmad first showed underwater photographers of its unique bokeh powers. A lot of mystery lies behind RRM and how the optics work in order to achieve quality results. The minimal working distance and lack of aperture control is a challenge to say the least. My previous attempts left me frustrated and chewing through my air before seeing anything in focus. The house reef left me eager to refine it as success was growing with each attempt.

Inevitably the final night approached and it was going to be the last go. I did not hesitate for the usual RRM kit. I knew my battery was low from shooting that day but having 2 out of 5 bars left, I felt confident that it would last me through the dive. Keeping everything off to conserve the camera life, I found my first subject and set up the composition. When the shot was composed, I pressed the shutter and nothing happened. Having just spent so long on a cautious approach, I was not expecting any malfunctions

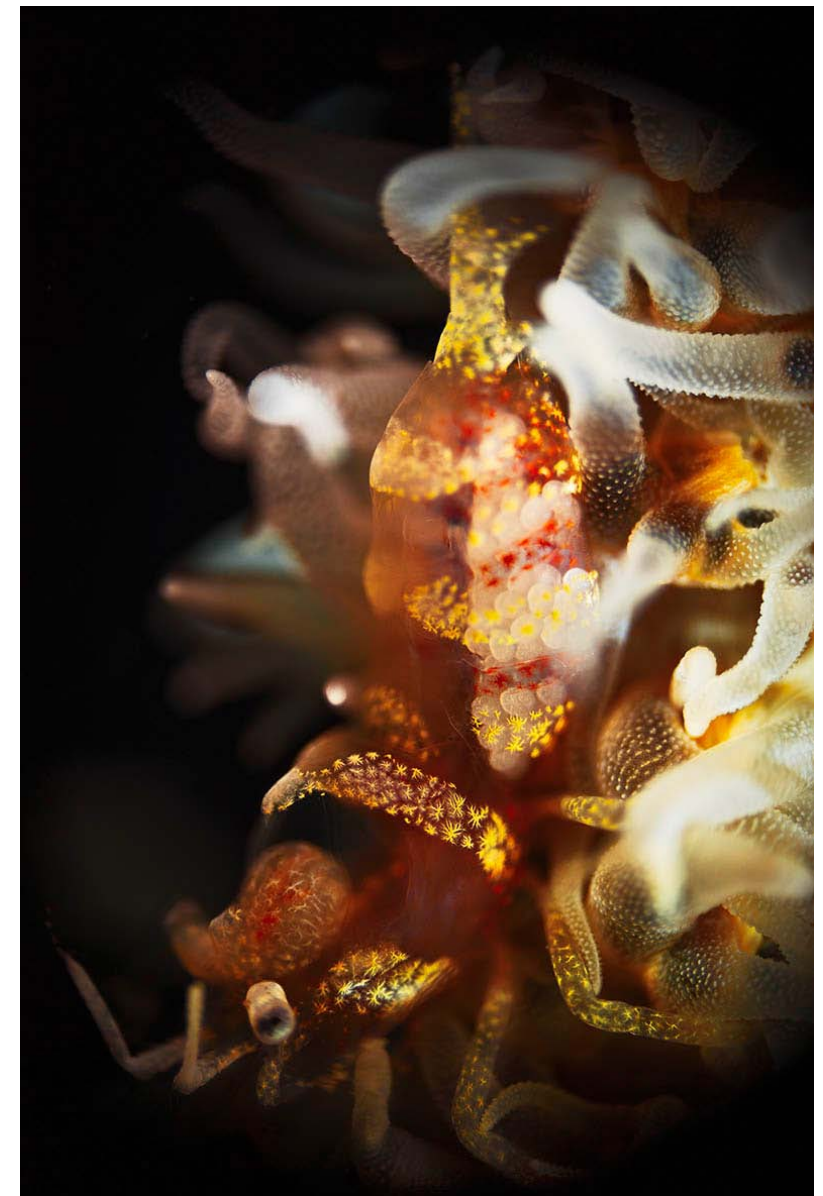
– there was a thorough pre-dive check as normal. I looked through the viewfinder to find the “no battery” icon blinking back at me. “How foolish!” We ascended from a shallow depth and saw the resort nearby.

I hesitated, thinking if it was worth it to quickly go back for a new battery. Since it was our last opportunity, I had no choice. My buddy waited and in no time I was back and descending, after many apologies of course...

It was going to be a brief one so I found a suitable sized subject for my fixed level of magnification. It was not ideal – an Ankara's whip coral shrimp surrounded by more coral below. I had no choice but to hover. Being stubborn with my lighting, I set up my snoot for a normal exposure on the right and a Glow Dome diffuser on the left, for some fill light. This did not make things easier. My tank ran low as I began shooting a shrimp with eggs. It was cooperating but that did not make things any easier and the dive ended shortly after.

None of the shots had the eyes in proper focus. Quite bitter about the affair I did not bother reviewing until the following day. However a closer look showed the eggs, being nurtured by the shrimp, provided a unique focal point. As unorthodox as the technique itself was this composition. It grew on me on account of its originality. It left eager to return to Thailand to further experiment with RRM and make it my own.

Tony Myshlyayev
www.tonymyshlyayev.com



Ankaras Whip Coral Shrimp (Pontonides ankeri) with eggs and night pattern. Nikon D700 + 105mm/50mm (RRM) with Subal housing. 2 x Inon Z240 - Glow dome diffuser on left & LSD Retra snoot on right 1/320 – f/5.6 - ISO 200

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.