

Meet the Creatures of the Indian Ocean Territories



Parapaguridae

A family of deep-water hermit crabs that carry colonies of anemones or zoanthids instead of an empty shell - they don't outgrow their home like other hermit crabs!



Fangtooth fish

No question where this deep dweller gets its name- look at those chompers! Special pouches in the roof of its mouth protect the brain from its teeth when it closes its mouth!



Dumbo octopus

Named after the Disney elephant because of their large 'ears,' dumbo octopus refers to an entire genus of deep-sea umbrella octopuses! The ears propel them and the arms steer.



Mobula ray

Despite their size, these rays only eat microscopic plants and animals (plankton). They're often called 'devil rays' or 'flying rays' because of their tendency to leap clear out of the water.



Batfish

A type of anglerfish, these fish are weak swimmers that go fishing instead of chasing their prey! They use an appendage over their head (looks like a lure) to bring in prey!



Squat lobster

More closely related to hermit crabs than lobsters, their claws can be twice the length of their bodies! The long antennae help them locate objects.



Cookie Cutter shark

This bioluminescent parasite leaves behind a 'cookie-shaped' wound in its prey. It uses bioluminescence to lure in prey by making itself look like a small fish from below.



Solenocerid shrimp

A smaller marine shrimp, they're not quite big enough to be collected for a barbie. They're widespread in the marine environment but generally only at depths >1 km.



Bony-eared assfish

A type of deep-dwelling cusk-eel that lives between 1 and 5 km deep, it has the smallest brain to body ratio of all vertebrates - what a claim to fame!



Pancake urchin

This urchin has a delicate skeleton that flattens like a pancake when taken out of water. This species was recognised in the fossil record before being found alive.