Marshall's Mysteries - Answers

A



Arcturid Isopod (Astacilla sp, perhaps Astacilla spinata) – one of the over 10,000 species of isopods known worldwide (relatives of woodlice).

The eye is circled in green, just below the antennae on the right.

Astacilla sp also found in deepsea environments, rarely in relatively shallow coral reefs.

B

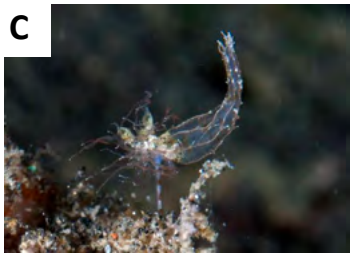


Juvenile Crown-of-thorns Seastar (Acanthaster planci) on coral disc (Fungia sp).

Adult urchin seen below, having a rest on the sand after devouring some coral.

From personal experience, I can testify that the spines are indeed venomous, causing pain & swelling and allegedly can even result in death by anaphylactic shock.

C



Shrimp-like lure of Spotfin Frogfish (Antennatus nummifer, previously Antennarius nummifer).

The banded "fishing rod" is called the illicium and the shrimp-like bait is the esca. Amazingly, these esca regenerate if bitten off by prey, although the frogfish may go hungry until the esca grows back.

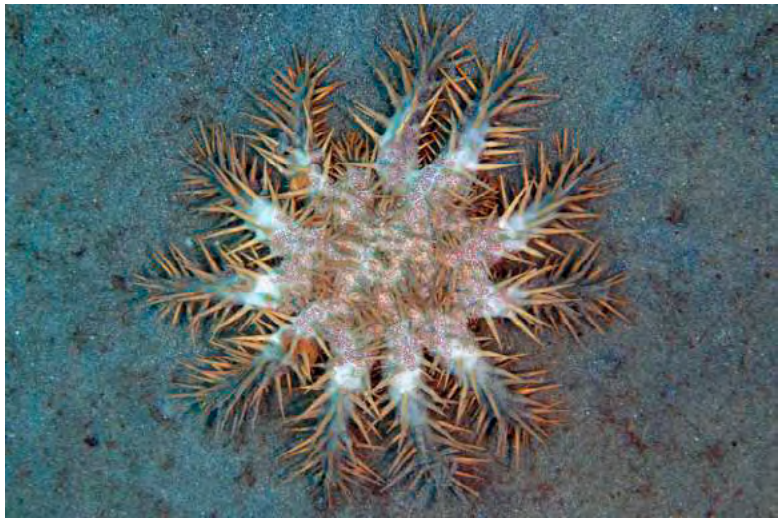
Slightly sneaky as image was just a close-up… Full profile below :

D



Seed Shrimp (Vargula hilgendorfi), a myodocopid ostracod, ie a crustacean.

Allegedly, there are some ostracods that are bioluminescent, hence also called "Sea-fireflies", and some, when crushed, give off enough light "to read a newspaper", but let's not do that…



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More detail on this Starfish can be found on page 7 of "Starfishes and Other Echinoderms of the Tropical Indo-Pacific" by Andrey Ryanskiy.



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More detail on this Frogfish can be found on page 147 of Volume 1 of "Reef Fishes of the East Indies" by Gerry Allen and Mark Erdmann.

If you think any of the identifications or information above is wrong, please let me know at colintrmarshall@yahoo.com. Feel free to send me any images of anything you'd like some help in identifying – any particularly interesting mysteries may be included in future Underwater Photography issues.