CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Harlequin shrimp

Hymenocera picta

Hymenocera picta eats one thing: sea stars. It has no fallback diet, and its entire body plan is a set of tools for that job. The flattened, petal-like antennules sniff out prey chemically; the enlar…

Quick facts

Classification: Invertebrate
Family: Gnathophyllidae
Habitat: Coral reefs
Diet: Carnivore
Conservation status: Least Concern
Lifespan: 2-3 years
Weight: 10-20 grams
Scientific name: Hymenocera picta

Did you know?

- Harlequin shrimp can survive for weeks on a single sea star, methodically consuming it limb by limb while keeping the star alive for as long as possi…
- A pair of harlequin shrimp can spend over a week consuming a single large starfish, and the star is generally still alive for most of it. Their claws…

What I learned

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