CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Pistol Shrimp

Alpheus bellulus

Alpheid snapping shrimp do not stun prey with the snap of the claw — they stun it with the bubble the snap creates. The oversized claw is cocked open, held by a physical latch and loaded by muscle li…

Quick facts

Classification: Invertebrate
Family: Alpheidae
Habitat: Shallow tropical and subtropical coastal waters, coral reefs, and seagrass beds
Diet: Carnivore
Conservation status: Least Concern
Lifespan: 2-4 years
Weight: 5-25 grams
Scientific name: Alpheus bellulus

Did you know?

- The snap of a pistol shrimp's claw is so loud it can disrupt sonar and is one of the loudest biological sounds in the ocean.
- Many snapping shrimp share a burrow with a goby: the near-blind shrimp digs and maintains the tunnel while the goby stands sentry, and the shrimp kee…

What I learned

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