

PEACOCK MANTIS SHRIMP

Odontodactylus scyllarus

THE WEIRD, THE BEAUTIFUL, THE FIERCE



These weird creatures pack a mighty punch!

Peacock Mantis Shrimp are one of the hardest hitters in the animal kingdom! Mantis shrimp are split into two different types – smashers and spearers. The spearer mantis shrimp have little spear claws that they use to catch prey by shooting out and stabbing them. Peacock mantis shrimp are smashers – they've got big clubs that can swing out at 23 meters per second to hit prey! That's fast enough to make a vacuum in the water, creating bubbles so hot they light up!

Married Shrimp?

Mantis shrimp are monogamous and choose a mate to stay together for life! They care for eggs together, hunt together, and care for the same burrow. They can get quite elaborate in their dances and fights with other mantis shrimp too, to protect their mate and eggs.

Fish Tank Foes

Think peacock mantis shrimp are beautiful? Don't consider keeping them as pets. The same big clubs that they use to hunt prey can break glass! You might just end up with an escapee sea creature on your hands!

SECRET SHRIMP COLORS? NOT QUITE...

Have you heard that mantis shrimp have eyes that contain 12 different light sensors, in comparison to our 3? Well, they aren't seeing weird colors that we cannot even imagine. Rather, the mantis shrimp cannot compare colors in its brain to make new colors, so it needs different photoreceptors for every color. They cannot see green by adding together yellow and blue light – they need a separate green receptor!



Informational Artifact Draft

1. A detailed description of the audience you are targeting

In this artifact, I wanted to utilize eye catching colors, easy-to-understand language and interesting facts to attract a curious but ultimately untrained audience. This is the kind of exhibit label built more for the public eye, to share interesting facts and debunking theories on mantis shrimp than it is to specifically teach an in-depth concept.

2. An explanation of the specific purpose of your artifact

To talk about the peacock mantis shrimp, an interesting animal that may help in understanding the interactions between animal behavior and light. While it does debunk the common myth/meme that mantis shrimp can see in entirely different spectrums of light to humans, this is mostly an artifact for education-entertainment

3. A bibliography for sources/images (in CSE format)

Picture References:

- Both the background on the top part of the page and the first picture below the title were either drawn or heavily edited by me.
- Baron S. 2008. *Odontodactylus Scyllarus*. [cited 2021 Apr 11]. Available from: <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/b/b2/OdontodactylusScyllarus.jpg/640px-OdontodactylusScyllarus.jpg>

Sources:

- Morrison J. 2014. Mantis shrimp's super colour vision debunked. *Nature News* [Internet]. [cited 2021 Apr 11]. Available from: <https://www.nature.com/news/mantis-shrimp-s-super-colour-vision-debunked-1.14578>
- Kennerson E, Boyle C. 2016. The Snail-Smashing, Fish-Spearing, Eye-Popping Mantis Shrimp. *KQED* [Internet]. [cited 2021 Apr 11]. Available from: <https://www.kqed.org/science/1109305/the-snail-smashing-fish-spearing-eye-popping-mantis-shrimp>