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UnderWaterWorld 2020

Front page: Flathead scorpionfish – *Scorpaenopsis oxycephalus* – Red Sea, El Quadim Bay, Egypt

Live in coral reefs, motionless during the day, confident in his perfect camouflage and poisonous fin rays. At night in more exposed areas to ambush fishes.

January: Red Sea fusilier – *Caesio suevica* – Red Sea, Zerib Soraya, Egypt

Live in dense schools in the open water of deep lagoons and outdoor reefs; feeds on zooplankton. He is named fusilier because of his synchronous swimming.

February: Coral grouper – *Cephalopholis miniata* – Red Sea, El Quadim Bay, Egypt

The coral grouper feeds on small fish and crustaceans. Like all groupers, coral groupers make in the course of their lives a gender change. They are first females and later change to male.

March: Leather anemone – *Heteractis crispa* – Rotes Meer, Sheik Malik, Egypt

They live mainly on sediment in symbiosis with zooxanthellae, from which they get some of the nutrients they need. Leather anemones are important symbiotic partners of pomacentrids, as here with Red Sea anemone fish and three-spot damsels.

April: Pigmy sweepers – *Parapriacanthus ransonneti* – Red Sea, El Quadim Bay, Egypt

The sweepers have a translucent body and are found in large groups under coral overhangs and in caves. They are foraging outside during night and feeds on zooplankton.

May: Circular batfish – *Platax orbicularis* – Red Sea, El Quadim Bay, Egypt

The circular batfish occurs in the Indo-Pacific. He lives in deeper lagoons, reefs channels and outer reefs. Circular batfish live alone or in small groups and feed on algae and small invertebrates.

June: Hemprich's soft coral – *Dendronephthya hemprichi* – Red Sea, El Quadim Bay, Egypt

By water absorption, the corpus of soft corals swells and appears to be transparent. The color ranges from red, yellow, blue, green to purple. It feeds on plankton, that is being filters out of the water.

July: Spinner dolphin – *Stenella longirostris* – Pacific Ocean, Honaunau Bay, Big Island, Hawaii

The spinner dolphin is a small dolphin found in off-shore tropical waters around the world. It is famous for its acrobatic displays in which it spins along its longitudinal axis as it leaps through the air.

August: Great barracuda – *Sphyraena barracuda* – Red Sea, El Quadim Bay, Egypt

Great Barracudas are diurnal and live from the water surface to depths of a maximum of 200 meters. Adult specimens are solitary and rarely found in small groups. They are located near outlying reefs, in estuaries and in lagoons and are mostly immobile on prey lurking in open water.

September: Dugong – *Dugong Dugon* – Red Sea, Sheik Malik, Egypt

The dugong, has a dolphin-like tail and forms with the round tail sea cow or manatees the order of the manatee (Sirenia). While the Manatee species occasionally visit the fresh water, the dugong is almost exclusively leaving in salt water. Its present distribution area includes the coasts of the



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Indian Ocean and parts of the West Pacific. Dugongs feed on sea grass.

October: Common lionfish – Pterois miles – Water Lily Wrack, Indischer Ozean, Mauritius

The Common lionfish is native to the Red Sea and the western Indo-Pacific region. It can be found in depth up to 50 meters. It is mainly nocturnal and may hide in crevices during the daytime. It feeds on fish and small crustaceans.

November: Red Sea fusilier – Caesio suevica – Red Sea, Zerib Soraya, Egypt

Red sea fusilier on cleaning station where he is cleaned by cleaner wrasses.

December: Zebra lionfish – Dendrochirus zebra – Kudu, Bali See, Indonesia

Live individually, the females also in small groups. During the day they stay in caves or under protrusions. Zebra lionfish feed mainly on small crustaceans and only a few small fish.

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