

WHAT'S LURKING IN THE MANGROVES?

Jo tells us about some of the cool creatures we spotted on our adventure...



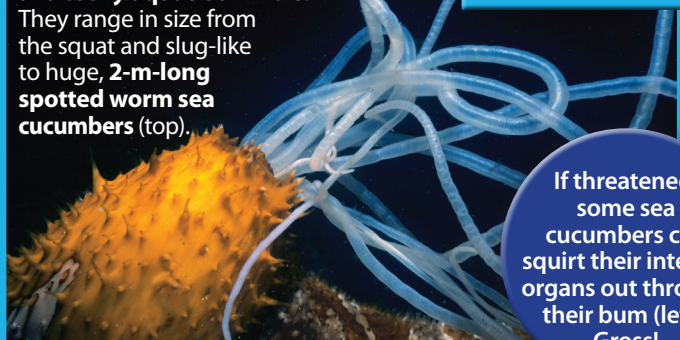
LEAF ME ALONE!

Batfish

Only **baby batfish** are found in the mangroves – they disguise themselves by lying on their sides and floating around like **leaves**! Once they're adults they migrate out towards the reef.

Sea cucumbers

Squidgy **sea cucumbers** shuffle along the sea floor gobbling up **fish poop**, **algae** and **teeny aquatic animals**. They range in size from the squat and slug-like to huge, **2-m-long spotted worm sea cucumbers** (top).



If threatened, some sea cucumbers can squirt their internal organs out through their bum (left). Gross!

Tiger cowrie snail

These **snails** have no problem keeping their pretty shells glossy – while moving around feeding, they wrap folds of their body up around them!

The cowrie's mantle curling up over its shiny shell.

Cowrie shells used to be used as **money** on tropical islands!



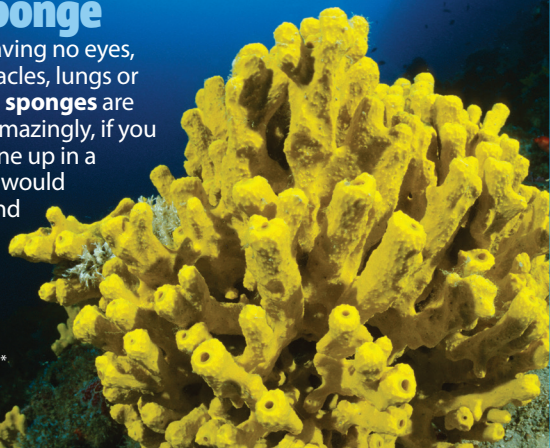
Feather duster worm

You can guess where these creatures get their name from, right? The worm itself stays hidden in a tube in the sand, or coral, while its wispy **tentacles** unfurl to catch food. But if disturbed, they'll shoot back inside the tube at incredible speeds!



Sea sponge

Despite having no eyes, arms, tentacles, lungs or blood, **sea sponges** are **animals**! Amazingly, if you whizzed one up in a blender, it would survive, and would eventually join back together in a new formation!*



DANGER!

Stonefish

Luckily we didn't actually spot any **stonefish** – they're some of the **most venomous fish** in tropical waters. And unfortunately, they're hard to avoid because they look *exactly* like algae-covered rocks!

13 **venomous spines** line the top of a stonefish's body.



* But DO NOT try this at home!