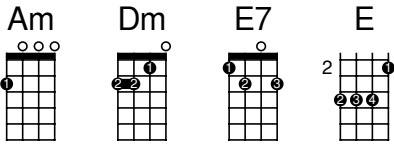


# Horseshoe Crab

Mary Jane Ford 2008



## Verse 1:

[Am] The horseshoe crab is a fearful sight;  
[Dm] Ancient cousin of the [E7] trilobite,  
A [Am] species older than the dinosaur  
With a [Dm] shape like a forties [E7] Buick [Am] car.  
To an army helmet, it's a dead ringer,  
Ex-[Dm]-cept for the tail, sharp [E7] as a [Am] stinger.  
It's a gentle creature; it does no harm,  
Not [Dm] even when tens of [E7] thousands [Am] swarm.

## Chorus:

The [Am] horseshoe crab [E] of the Atlantic [Am] sea,  
It is the perfect model for [E] biodiversi-[Am]-ty.

## Verse 2:

[Am] On a spring night with the highest tide,  
By [Dm] moonlight on the [E7] waves they ride,  
To the [Am] sandy beaches of the Delaware Bay,  
Where [Dm] twenty thousand [E7] eggs they [Am] lay.  
Migrating shore birds eat the eggs,  
Dug [Dm] up by waves or the [E7] crabs' own [Am] legs.  
This protein source that the red knot ate  
Gave the [Dm] bird a boost to [E7] double its [Am] weight.

## Instrumental Chorus:

The [Am] horseshoe crab [E] of the Atlantic [Am] sea,  
It is the perfect model for [E] biodiversi-[Am]-ty.

## Verse 3:

[Am] For most of the twentieth century  
The [Dm] crab was nothing but an [E7] oddity,  
[Am] Dried fertilizer, fishing bait,

Un-[Dm]-til the discovery [E7] of ly-[Am]-sate.  
A clotting agent from the blood of the crab  
De-[Dm]-tects infection in the [E7] medical [Am] lab.  
This compound helped many people survive.  
The [Dm] crab saved more than a [E7] million [Am] lives.

#### Chorus:

The [Am] horseshoe crab [E] of the Atlantic [Am] sea,  
It is the perfect model for [E] biodiversi-[Am]-ty.

#### Verse 4:

[Am] Each year the crabs are caught and bled  
For [Dm] lysate, leaving [E7] thousands dead.  
Yet [Am] this is not the greatest threat.  
It's the [Dm] bait industry and the [E7] fisherman's [Am] net.  
The horseshoe crabs are in decline,  
Cut [Dm] up as bait to let [E7] Asians [Am] dine  
On whelk or conch, on American eel,  
And the [Dm] shore birds lost their [E7] easy [Am] meal.

#### Instrumental Chorus:

The [Am] horseshoe crab [E] of the Atlantic [Am] sea,  
It is the perfect model for [E] biodiversi-[Am]-ty.

#### Verse 5:

[Am] Now fewer birds come to the Delaware Bay,  
And the [Dm] loggerhead sea turtles [E7] stay away.  
[Am] Since the food supply's decreased,  
With [Dm] so many horseshoe [E7] crabs de-[Am]-ceased.  
Their dwindling spawning aggregations  
Shrink [Dm] other species [E7] popu-[Am]-lations,  
And lessen the horseshoe blood supply,  
In-[Dm]-creasing the chance than [E7] people may [Am] die.

#### Chorus:

The [Am] horseshoe crab [E] of the Atlantic [Am] sea,  
It is the perfect model for [E] biodiversi-[Am]-ty.