



They noticed that "hornshoe crabs were aggressive with each other but seemed indifferent to their non-horned counterparts. Male crabs used their mandibles to joust in displays of courtship and to fight other males, similar to how stag beetles use their mandibles," says Collins. "We are looking forward to doing further research on these mysterious new creatures!"

Interestingly, this is not the first time humans have encountered the horned horseshoe crab. In fact, almost two hundred

years ago, an individual by the name Clyde Farre photographed this creature on the beaches of Long Island, New York. The photo was taken in March of 1835. Two months later, Farre had a brief article about the creature published in the first issue of the local Long Island Democrat newspaper. Farre wrote that he spotted the creature "mingling with the other 'normal' horseshoe crabs that had all beached for mating season. It appeared highly aggressive, butting into others and using its sharp horns to poke and prod incessantly.

Photograph marking the first sighting of the Hornshoe Crab
Clyde Farre, March, 1835

"THE HORNSHOE CRAB CRAWLS BACK INTO THE SPOTLIGHT AFTER MYSTIFYING SCIENTISTS FOR DECADES. IT IS TRULY MIRACULOUS!,,

- Iqra Collins

However, the non-horned crabs were indifferent to them as horned crabs only fought other horned crabs." (Farre, L.I. Democrat, vol. 1, 1835). Unfortunately, his article spurred no immediate further scientific investigation. Farre and his "horned horseshoe crab" quickly faded in the public eye, overshadowed by news of local politics. For the next two centuries no one could find it. With only a photo and a small article to go on, interest in the Hornshoe crab faded amongst the scientific community and general public, and its existence devolved into myth.

As of now, Collins, along with fellow researchers along the Atlantic coast and even worldwide, will begin investigations at a greater scale so that we all may learn more about these intriguing new creatures. ■