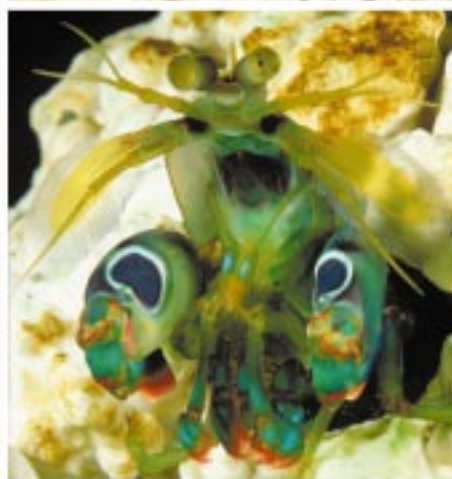


## Biology in pictures

### Mantis shrimp display



Mantis shrimps (stomatopods) use both coloured and polarized light for communication. This often takes the form of a 'meral spread' in which the frontal appendages are opened to reveal species-specific coloured spots. The polarized light information is found mainly on the paddle-shaped flaps, parts of the antennae, on either

side of the head. (As humans can't see polarized light, this information is depicted in the photograph at bottom left as areas of green, speckled false colour.) Both coloured and polarized light is perceived by the specialized mid-band region of the mantis compound eye, which is clearly visible in most of these photographs,

running almost horizontally across the eye. Stomatopod polarized light vision has been tested by training them to feed from polaroid cubes, as seen in the photograph at top right. For more details, see Marshall J. *et al.*, in this issue (9:755-758). Photographs provided by Justin Marshall and Roy Caldwell.