

2022 Calendar



HELP ! THINGS ARE GETTING FAR TOO HOT !

Please forgive the whimsical anthropomorphism in the title of this photograph; I thought it might amuse some viewers. The point is well made, however, and this beautiful fish seemed like a good messenger. But to turn from whimsy to accuracy, I encountered this ribbon eel (*Rhinomuraena quaesita*: 10 cms. above ground) in a sandy substrate beside a coral reef in Bali, Indonesia. It may look startled, but that is its normal appearance. I take care not to frighten the underwater animals that I photograph. If this eel had been the least bit worried by my presence, it would have retreated swiftly down its burrow.

COVID-19 continues to show us all the imperative for international efforts to address global problems. However, the current pandemic, while seriously worrying, is a relatively minor matter compared to the devastation which would be caused if the world's average temperature rises by more than 1.5 centigrade degrees. It is a profoundly worrying fact that, if current trends continue, the planet could heat up by much more than that. Suffice it to state that if humanity does not come together to combat global heating effectively, the worst case scenario suggests that we may be facing this century the extinction of more than a million species and the possible collapse of civilisation.

I am writing this in September, one month after the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published its latest report and two months before COP26. It is the frankest IPCC message to date and makes for grim reading. Most people will have seen a resumé of it in the media, which lack of space precludes me from reiterating here. Global heating is already causing destruction on a massive scale, as we have seen during 2021. Extreme weather events - including droughts, fires, floods and high temperatures - have been unprecedented in their number and intensity. People throughout the world are becoming more aware of the looming catastrophe that we face. It is hoped that public pressure will have a positive effect on the deliberations at COP26.

By the time you receive this calendar in December, we shall know whether COP26 has resulted in the right words. It will take some years to judge whether such words are translated into sufficient actions to at least mitigate the scale and scope of the many and varied disasters that are probably now unavoidable in the decades ahead.

Stay safe, well and happy!

Terence Dormer.

2022 Year Planner



January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	31					1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29



February

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					



March

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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		



April

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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



May

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



June

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



July

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31					1	2
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30



August

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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



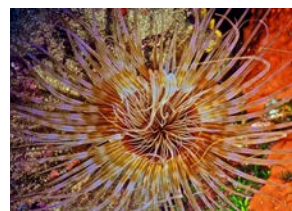
September

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October

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November

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December

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A hawksbill turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) with a wrasse companion (*Thalassoma klunzingeri*: 20 cms.) swimming over an area of beige soft corals. Sea turtles are amongst the first of the many species which will become extinct in the wild, if global heating continues to increase. While the effects of rising sea temperatures are their main threat, their other hazards include pollution, becoming entangled in fishing nets, having their beach nesting sites destroyed by coastal development and, last but not least, people eating them. The IUCN Red List states that hawksbills are already critically endangered. Egyptian Red Sea.

January 2022

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27	Thursday
28	Friday
29	Saturday
30	Sunday
31	Monday



The vast majority of sea anemones spend their adult lives attached to the substrate. However, this species (*Bolocerooides mcmurrici*: 10 cms.) can be encountered swimming along the reef by means of undulations of its tentacles. There are symbiotic algae in its tissues which provide it with sugars and oxygen in exchange for a safe place to live. The remarkable appearance of this species prompts me to make another whimsical comment. Does it not look like yet another alien visitation (see the calendar's last page) bringing a warning that we should mend our ways? Egyptian Red Sea.

February 2022

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Most fish swim horizontally and can be encountered in a vertical position only when they are foraging in the substrate or nest building. Not so this species (*Acoliscus punctulatus*: 8 cms.) which lives in groups and spends almost all its time in a vertical 'heads-down' position. I have been unable to find out precisely why - perhaps because they want to look like sea grass? Anyway, when alarmed (and I made sure that this group was not) they are able to change to a horizontal mode and rush off at speed. Bali, Indonesia.

March 2022

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31	Thursday

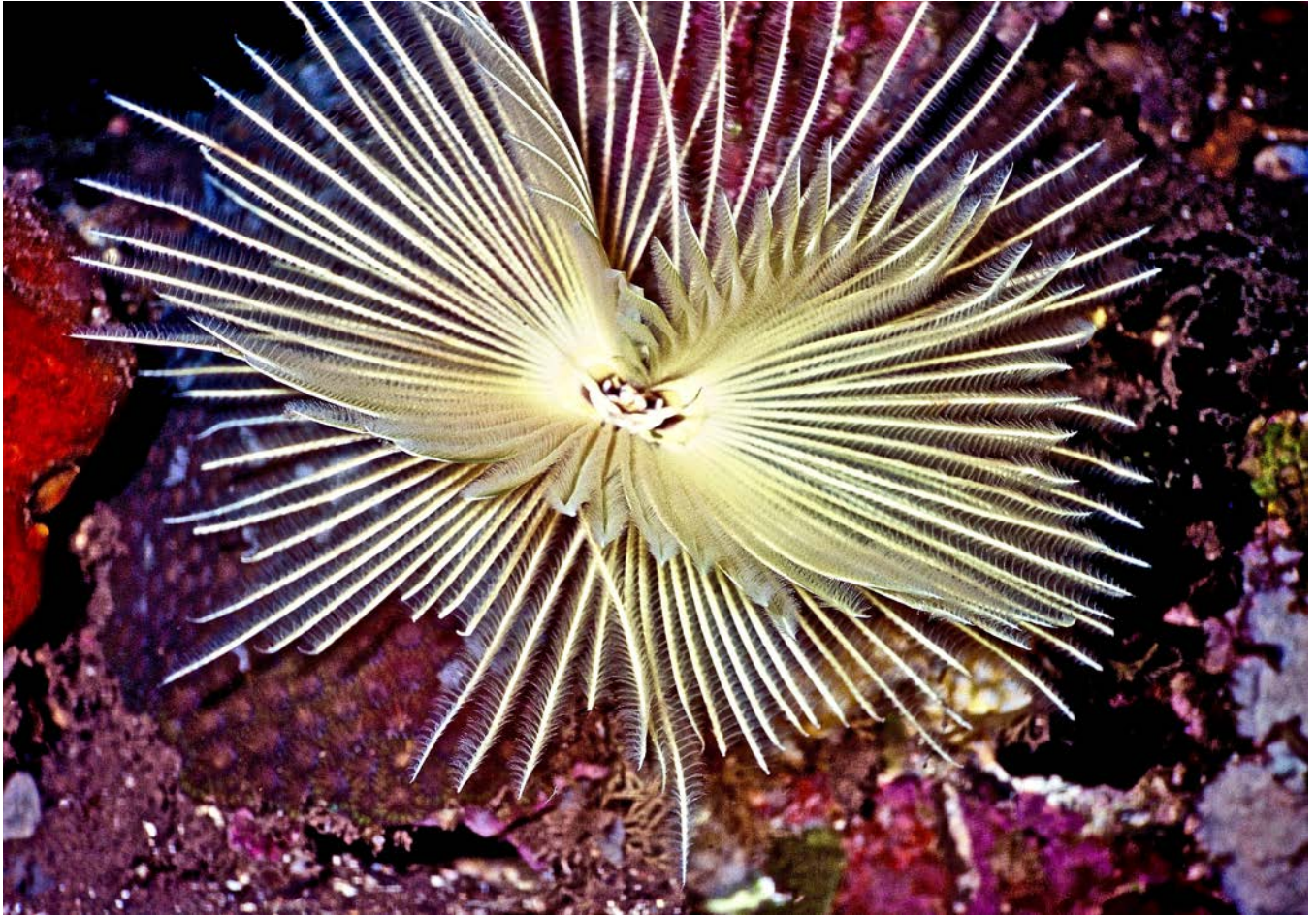


While all the underwater images in my previous calendars have involved marine creatures, I felt that for 2022 I should include mention of lakes and rivers. For example, the Nile and its tributaries are of great importance to Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Ruanda, Sudan, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. I took this picture in the last of those countries, when my wife and I had the excitement of having a boatman who thought that chasing hippopotami would be a source of merriment. It was not a good idea and we were fortunate that the animal in this instance (*Hippopotamus amphibius*: 350 cms) reacted by scampering for the shore rather than attacking the boat.

April 2022

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30	Saturday



Few people feel that land-based worms are particularly attractive. However, underwater, things are different! The delicate feathery elegance of this worm's feeding tentacles makes the beauty of this species (*Sebellastarte indica*: diameter 8 cms.) much appreciated by many divers. Stealth is required to photograph them, as they are very sensitive to variations in light or pressure waves and will withdraw immediately into their tubes at the slightest evidence of one's approach. Bali, Indonesia.

May 2022

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31	Tuesday



The fish on the right is a female triton triggerfish (*Balistoides viridescens*: 60 cms.). It is chasing away from its nesting site a bannerfish (*Zanclus commutatus*). Triton triggerfish work hard to build their nests with pieces of broken coral and they defend them - and their eggs - with fierce determination. Any animal which comes too close - including divers - is likely to be attacked. They have powerful jaws and teeth and can give a very nasty bite if approached during the nesting season. Egyptian Red Sea.

June 2022

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29	Wednesday
30	Thursday

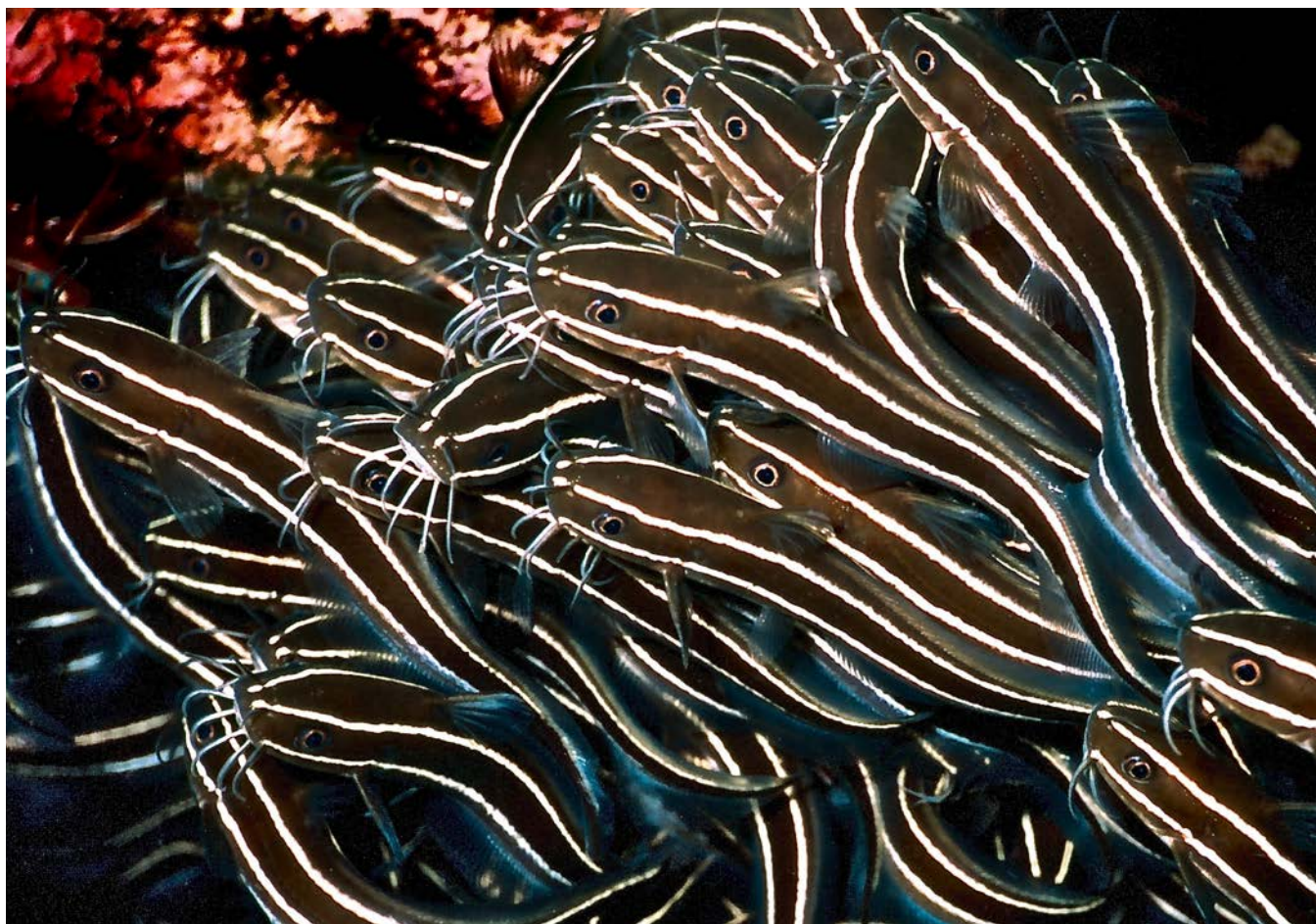


There is a wide variation in the colours and patterns formed by colonies of single-celled dinoflagellate algae in the soft tissues of giant clams. This is the first time that I have used this particular image for my calendars - it is one of many in my portfolio. Giant clams (*Tridacna gigas*) can live for 100 years, grow to a metre in diameter and weigh up to 200 kgs. However, they are becoming rare because of the effects of climate change, and because their meat is popular in many countries. The IUCN Red List indicates that the species is vulnerable. Egyptian Red Sea.

July 2022

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31	Sunday



Juveniles of this striped eel catfish (*Plotosus lineatus*: 8 cms.) congregate together in a tight squirming ball of about 100 individuals. This is thought to be a means of deterring predators. Additional defence is provided by their highly venomous dorsal and pectoral spines, stings from which are exceedingly painful and have even - on occasions - resulted in human fatalities. Like the stings of honey bees, the spines are barbed and the consequent difficulty of their extraction results in more venom injection than would be the case with a quick in-and-out jab. Egyptian Red Sea.

August 2022

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31	Wednesday

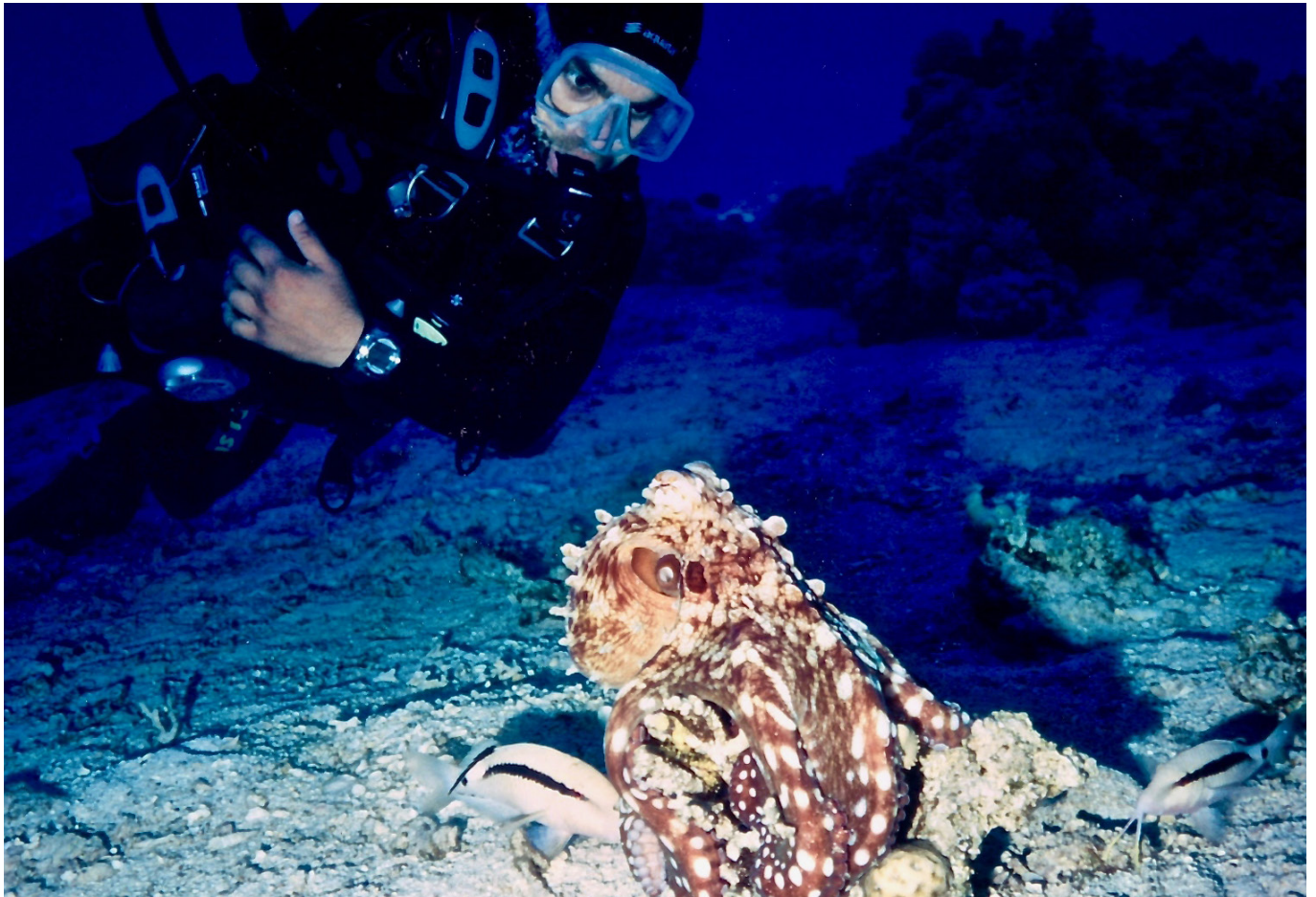


This pyjama nudibranch (*Chromodoris quadricolor*: 2 cms.) was feeding on a fire sponge (*Latrunculia magnifica*). Nudibranchs - or sea slugs to give them their common name - are considered by many divers to be the jewels of the ocean. This one is called 'pyjama' because of its brightly striped colouring, which serves as a warning that it contains toxins. The sponge also contains a toxin called Latrunculin A: touching or eating it is dangerous for most animals - but not for this nudibranch which is immune. Egyptian Red Sea.

September 2022

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30	Friday



Mutual respect and curiosity between species are always to be encouraged. This picture shows such an encounter between an octopus (*Octopus cyanea*: 40 cms.) and my Egyptian dive companion on that occasion. They are both clearly interested in one another. Octopi are molluscs and are close relatives of slugs and snails. However, they have a high level of intelligence. That stated, they are very different indeed from the arrogantly named *Homo sapiens*, our evolutionary paths having diverged hundreds of millions of years ago. A delightful documentary film, *My Octopus Teacher*, reveals more. Egyptian Red Sea.

October 2022

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Long-tentacled anemones of the species *Macrodactylia doreensis* (romantically named by a zoologist after his wife!) are regarded by many divers as one of the most beautifully coloured and physically arrayed of the actinarians. It lives generally in sandy areas and feeds on microplankton passing in the current, which it catches and immobilises by means of specialist stinging cells called nematocysts located in its tentacles. Bali, Indonesia.

November 2022

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I encountered this trumpetfish (*Aulostomus maculatus*: 60 cms.) in Cuban waters. It was endeavouring to conceal its presence by hiding underneath an outcrop covered in soft corals (*Dendronephthya* sp.). To its left, there are two intertwining whip corals (*Cirripathes anuina*) and a Caribbean giant barrel sponge (*Xestospongia meta*). Trumpet fish are lurk-and-lunge ambush predators. They are masters of camouflage and can change colour to blend in to their environments.

December 2022

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29	Thursday
30	Friday
31	Saturday



January 2023

February 2023

Dates to carry forward