

IDENTIFYING THE MIMIC OCTOPUS (*Thaumoctopus mimicus* Norman and Hochberg, 2005) AND WUNDERPUS (*Wunderpus photogenicus* Hochberg, Norman, and Finn, 2006)

All photos were taken in North Sulawesi, Indonesia with a Canon Powershot A620 (underwater housing, built in flash) Photos, text and videos © Christine Huffard 2006.

Hopefully these quick **hints and photos below** will help you identify the “Mimic” octopus (*Thaumoctopus mimicus*, Norman and Hochberg, 2005) and Wunderpus (*Wunderpus photogenicus* Hochberg, Norman, and Finn, 2006) from photos or video. If you’re still unable to identify an octopus in question, please feel free to email me (chuffard at mbari dot org). Who knows, maybe you’ve captured something new!

Both *T. mimicus* and Wunderpus can have variable activity patterns, however *T. mimicus* is most often active during the day, while Wunderpus tends to emerge very slowly from dens in the sand at dusk and dawn, and forages in the early evening and morning.

***Thaumoctopus mimicus* Norman and Hochberg, 2005**

Border between pale and dark brown areas on the *T. mimicus* is subjective. The dark areas are mottled, making it difficult to identify where they begin and pale areas end, especially on the side of the mantle. Pale areas connect, while many brown areas can be dark “islands” of color.

Bright white “V” on the posterior mantle (outlined in blue).

Dark area below eye when viewed from the side.

Bright white line along base of suckers.

Shades of maroon are sometimes visible under the eyes of *T. mimicus* however they are under rather than between the eyes and they do not move.

Eyes are on short stalks.

***Wunderpus photogenicus* Hochberg, Norman, and Finn, 2006**

Pale white/yellowish markings on a rusty brown background. The edges of these markings are clear. For example, I have easily traced the border between the rusty brown background and the pale areas of a Wunderpus mantle. Each of these pale and brown areas is fairly uniform in color, even on the side of the mantle. The brown background is solid, leaving no isolated dark patches.



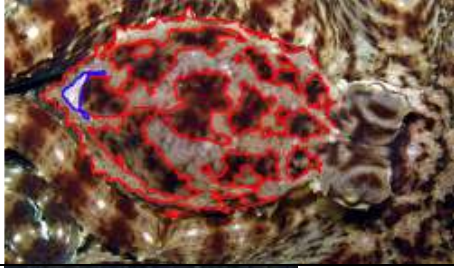





White “V” not evident on posterior mantle.




No dark area below eyes when viewed from the side

No bright white line along suckers

One or two patches of red pulse between the eyes of Wunderpus.

Eyes are on long stalks.

| | <i>Thaumoctopus mimicus</i> | <i>Wunderpus photogenicus</i> |
|---------------------------------|---|--|
| Mantle markings |  |  |
| Mantle markings outlined in red |  |  |
| Side of mantle |  |  |
| Eyes |  |  |

| | | |
|------------------|---|---|
| Suckers |  |  |
| Reddish markings |  | <p>See movie 28172 of <i>Wunderpus photogenicus</i> on Tree of Life web project</p> <p>http://tolweb.org/tree/</p> |