

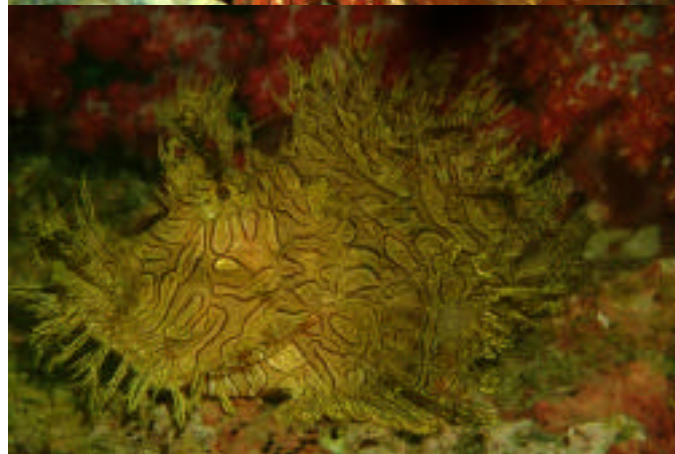
# Loloata diving News

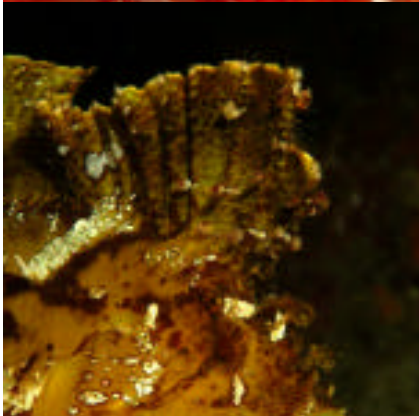
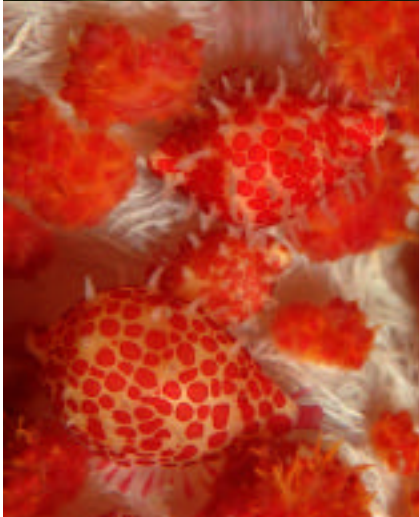
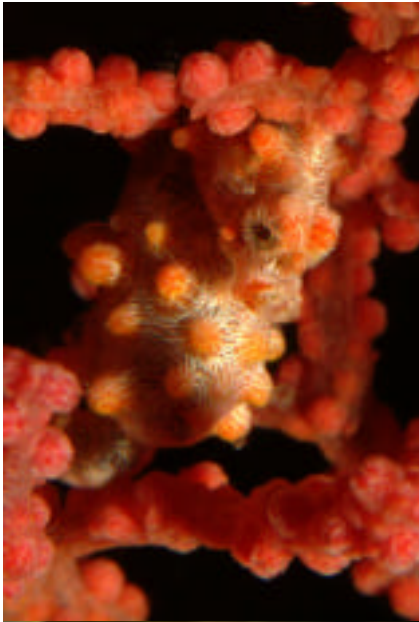
## 1<sup>st</sup> September 2004

### The Marine Life

We've been very Lucky so far this year with numerous colours of Loloata's famed Lacy Scorpionfish (*Rhinopias asphanes*) turning up at a plethora of reefs we regularly Dive, End Bommie is still the epi-centre of action for this the King of reef fish. Fair to say the lacy Scorpionfish is the Holy Grail for marine Photographers and Loloata Island Resort the place most likely to deliver the goods. A full spectrum of colours have been found with Orange, yellow and Purple been stunningly spectacular. Most seem to be about during the Calmer warmer season from October till March sometimes seeing 3 or 4 a dive, Now the waters are cooler and a bit choppy and our sightings a touch more sporadic, but a few days stay should ensure you get to see them, Pygmy seahorses too have been making a fine showing we've had them 100% of the time at various of our reefs some in a more unusual orange colour. Past visitors will be glad to know Suzie's Bommie is still in a class of its own for fish density and diversity many of our well travelled guests put this as the highlight of their dive trips around Papua New Guinea.

Our coral encrusted wreck sites Pacific Gas and Pai II continue to





please with various colours of Leaf Scorpionfish and Juvenile Clown triggerfish regularly seen to keep the macro addicts happy and schools of Jacks and glassfish to keep everything moving.

The "Muck" has been good, lots of Ornate Ghost Pipefish, along with Flying Gurnards, Pegasus Dragonets and Flamboyant cuttlefish Star's of the show, The Hollywood blockbuster must go to a lowly Squillid Mantis shrimp at Lion Island, captured in a fantastic photograph by Laurent Ballister which won him Best of show in the Last Papua New Guinea Photographic Competition (you can see this in Our Guest Photographers section) The mantis is still there and growing.

## The Weather

Weather has been very moderate this year with plenty of flat calm days and access to all the sights, Cyclone Grace down in Australia gave us some choppy weather in April and the biggest rains in June, well into the dry season brought some rough weather and limited visibility, The southeast Trade winds that usually make the seas very choppy in August have been very moderate and our famed Suzie's Bommie which is in a rather exposed location has been frequently divable. Temperature wise August and September traditionally has the coolest water this year been no exception at 24 / 25 degrees.

## The People.

We've had the usual flow of Diving Journalists and Photographers, some of whose work you can see on our Guest Photographers section or you may have read their Loloata Island Resort or PNG articles in various magazines around the world. Staff wise we remain the same so returning guests should recognise the usual friendly faces.

Now we're off diving! See you soon

All the best

The Loloata Dive team

Adam, Nienke, Yoshi, Franco & Walo

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