



LONGHORNED COWFISH

LACTORIA CORNUTA

DID YOU KNOW?

Fish can make sounds! The cowfish doesn't moo like a cow, but it does grind its teeth to grunt like a pig!

WHERE AT AQWA?

Watch the longhorned cowfish zoom through a coral lagoon in AQWA's Far North!

SIZE: <50CM

**DIET: ALGAE,
BENTHIC
INVERTEBRATES**

**MAIN PREDATOR:
LARGER FISH EG.
TUNA**

HABITAT: REEF

**FOUND: INDO-
PACIFIC OCEANS**

A POINT OF DIFFERENCE

With bright colours, long horns, bulging lips and a unique wind-up toy swimming style, the longhorned cowfish is a very distinctive fish.

Named for the long horns atop its head, alike those of a cow, the cowfish's scientific name *Lactoria cornuta* translates to the very similar "milk with horns".

Rather than move forward by swishing its tail, the cowfish paddles its top and side fins, making them slow and stilted swimmers.

FOUR-TOOTHED FAMILY

Cowfish belong to a group of fish called 'tetraodontiformes', which means "four teeth". Their teeth are fused together, except for a split through the middle, forming two large teeth in the top jaw and two in the bottom.

BLUE AND BOXY

The longhorned cowfish is covered in bright blue dots, which advertise to predators that it's dangerous. It has the ability to ooze toxic slime from its skin, which can stop other fish- and us!- from breathing.

Incase the cowfish's warning is ignored, it has another survival strategy; to be too hard to swallow! It is spiked with horns at the front and the back of the body and the body itself is an unappetizing, solid box made of fused together scales.

BUILT IN WATER PISTOL

Longhorned cowfish live around the sand and rubble of coral lagoons and reef flats. To feed, they blow jets of water through their bulging, pistol-like lips into the sand to uncover hidden food.