



PINEAPPLEFISH

CLEIDOPUS GLORIAMARIS

DID YOU KNOW?

Pineapplefish are also armed with swords! Tucked up on each side of their body is a long spike. If threatened they stick these spikes out to make themselves harder to swallow!

WHERE AT AQWA?

Pineapplefish are found in the icy wonderland of AQWA's Great Southern

SIZE: <25CM

DIET: TINY CRUSTACEANS

MAIN PREDATOR: OCTOPUS, SHARKS

HABITAT: REEF 3-150M

FOUND: ENDEMIC TO AUSTRALIA

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Named for its prickly skin and uncanny resemblance to a pineapple, the pineapplefish also has a heroic side.

It is also known as the knightfish, because its tough scales look like the chain-mail armour worn by medieval knights in their battles for glory! It makes sense then that its scientific name, *Cleidopus gloriamaris*, comes from a Latin term meaning 'glory of the sea'.

GLOW IN THE DARK LIPS

The pineapplefish has luminous lips that glow brightly, especially at night, luring curious creatures right into its mouth!

The glow comes from colonies of microscopic marine bacteria that are the source of the bioluminescence. When juveniles the colour is usually a greenish yellow, however this changes to an orange or red as the pineapplefish matures.!

CAREFUL WHAT YOU FISH FOR!

Pineapplefish are nocturnal. At night they move out onto sandy areas at night to hunt for crustaceans. If by chance they lure a predator instead of prey they have a flap of skin to quickly cover their glowing lure. With their lights out they are invisible once again in the blackness of the night ocean!

LIVING ON THE LEDGE

Pineapplefish love to live under ledges and in small caves. You can usually find them in small schools at their favourite 'hangouts'- research has found colonies that have been living under the same ledge for 7 years!