

ALPHEIDS of Singapore

Alpheids, otherwise known as snapping shrimps or pistol shrimps, are small crustaceans of the phylum Arthropoda. These highly-evolved shrimps possess a pair of asymmetrical claws, the larger of which is capable of producing one of the loudest sounds in the sea. Snapping the claw creates an air bubble which rapidly collapses, giving rise to an audible 'click' having sufficient force to kill a small fish nearby. Some species maintain a symbiotic relationship with gobies that share their burrows— the shrimp builds and tends the burrow, while the fish helps to look out for danger. The Comprehensive Marine Biodiversity Survey* has recorded more than 40 species to-date from waters around Singapore.



*Singapore's first Comprehensive Marine Biodiversity Survey is a five-year national initiative to take stock of our marine ecosystems, species diversity and distribution of marine life. The survey is organised by National Parks Board and National University of Singapore, sponsored by Asia Pacific Breweries, Care-for-Nature Trust Fund, Keppel Corporation, Shell Companies in Singapore and The Air Liquide Group. Visit www.nparks.gov.sg/cmbs to find out more.