



ABOUT cont'd

### **Mimicry & Mimesis**

In terms of camouflage, the technique is referred to as Mimesis, where the camouflaged object resembles something else - which is of no interest to the observer. Other applicable terms are mimicry, masquerading or mistaken identity.

Mimic Shark Suits™ draw on several forms of mimicry as survival techniques used in the underwater world, the animal kingdom and in nature at large. Such as Aposematism. A form of conspicuous patterns, colours and markings that serve as a warning signal of danger, poison or potential death. And Batesian mimicry, where a harmless species mimics the warning signals of a harmful species, such as with conspicuous colouration, to ward off predators.

By echoing the laws of nature with stripes as a warning signal, people wearing Mimic Shark Suits™ are perceived as potentially toxic and unpalatable as prey.

There are many marine creatures that either feature a black and white striped pattern or mimic it - portraying poisonous or distasteful creatures in order to deter any potential predators.

### **The Mimic Octopus**

Mimicry is most striking when you watch the transformation abilities of the Mimic Octopus (*Thaumoctopus mimicus*), which mimics striped sea snakes, the poisonous Banded Sole fish (*Soleichthys heterorhinos*) and even the venomous Lion Fish (*Pterois volitans*), depending on which one is most advantageous at the time. Watch.

### **The Wunderpus Octopus**

Then there's the Wunderpus Octopus (*Wunderpus photogenicus*) that mimics the Mimic Octopus, which is mimicking the striped sea snake. Watch.

### **Eels**

For example, three types of eels with striped patterns are very similar to the striped sea snake. The Banded Snake Eel or Harlequin Snake Eel (*Myrichthys colubrinus*), the Banded Moray Eel (*Gymnothorax rueppellii*), which is similar to the third type, the Zebra Moray Eel (*Gymnomuraena zebra*). They are potential food for sea snakes, so it's a clever move for this prey to mimic its predator.

Another example of a pretender is the Tiger Snake Moray Eel (*Scuticaria tigrina*). Sporting spots with a subtle striped effect hence the tiger reference in the name, some have developed a more cylindrical shape akin to a snake to aid in this mimicry masquerade. Watch this footage where the mere sight of the Tiger Snake Moray Eel intimidates a larger, Speckled Moray Eel to instantly retreat.

The juvenile Emperor Red Snapper (*Lutjanus sebae*). Watch the camouflage in action where a moving mass makes it difficult for a predator to focus on just one target.

The Striped Pajama Squid (*Sepioloidea lineolata*) is a venomous squid that uses its stripes to ward off predators. Unlike other squid or cuttlefish that would rush away, it is confident in its striped warning pattern. Watch.

**MIMIC SUITS™**  
BLACK & WHITE VANUATU



What's more, certain sharks at birth and as pups, such as the Brownbanded Bamboo Shark (*Chiloscyllium punctatum*) and the Zebra Shark (*Stegostoma fasciatum*), have a similar striped pattern to help deter predators.

Of course, the striped Pilot Fish (*Naucrates ductor*) is obviously unappealing, as it's the shark's on-going companion.

There are countless examples of sea life that use striped patterns to mimic toxic creatures. A survival tactic they use as individuals and to camouflage themselves as a group by optically diffusing their perception as prey.

Further proof that the best place to look for answers - is in nature.