



Hello,

Today we have a small sensation to announce!

Near Pulau Pef, at one of our frequently visited dive sites, the underwater photographer Thomas Haider (AU) found and photographed a very rare orange Mantis Shrimp, which is only about 4-5 cm (1.5-2 in) in size.

This species (*Gonodactylaceus Glabrous*) was discovered 20 years ago by the world-famous Mantis Shrimp specialist Mark Erdmann in Raja Ampat and has never been officially seen or photographed in this area since.



Mantis Shrimps owe their name to their club-like appendages, which outwardly resemble those of praying mantis.

They are predators living in the bottom zone of tropical seas and have highly developed eyesight with unusually powerful complex eyes that can distinguish up to 12 different color wavelengths, as well as linear and polarized light. Mantis Shrimps process this large amount of information in a part of their brain

which is located in their stalk eyes.

For comparison - the human eye can only distinguish 3 wavelengths: red, green and blue.

The species photographed belongs to the «smashers» among the Mantis Shrimps. These crustaceans hook parts of their exoskeleton together, tense their strong muscles and then let the tentacles shoot out in an explosive movement.

In this process, the hammer-like claw of the Mantis Shrimp develops a speed of 23 m/s (equivalent to 82.8 km/h). This blow is one of the fastest movements performed by an animal. The impact force is similar to that of a pistol bullet!

10th stay at Raja4Divers for free!



We are very fortunate to have many repeating guests at Raja4Divers. To thank our most loyal repeaters, we would like to offer the following:

For your **10th stay** at Raja4Divers we offer you **2 weeks accommodation incl. full board** (excl. diving and boat transfer) free of charge.

Our very first repeater is visiting us now in March for the 10th time and will already be able to benefit from this offer.

We are curious to find out who will be next to complete their 10th visit with us!

#TalkingWithMangroves
New blog post every Friday on raja4divers.com

Follow us on social media!

We look forward to seeing your holiday pictures from Pulau Pef. Please use the hashtags **#raja4divers** and **#pulaupef** to tag us.

