

This book describes 23 unusual mammals, fish, amphibians and insects from the animal world that are rare and newly described.

Blasties, Beasties, Beauties

By Rollo Foxes-Sox

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Blasties



easties



eauntries



ROLLO FOXES-SOX

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Sea Pigmy (Barbie Pig)

Cute and pink
maybe the missing link?
Yes, I am low and squat
But a pig I am not.
No, I am not a newcomer
I am a sea unicumber!
Nobody bothers me,
And I think you will agree
I quietly go about my business
Enjoying my blitheness.

Recently discovered 3 miles or so down in the ocean, I am an amberima or unicumber. I am small (less than 6 inches) with tiny sausage-shaped feet and am a hot fuchsia pink so that is why I am called a sea pigmy or Barbie pig. My translucent cousin is a sea pig. Very little is known about me. I hang out shuffling and sniffing along the sea floor (13-16,000 feet) grabbing poop, mucus and

other edibles in the mud as well as “marine snow” which are falling food particles from above me. Nobody likes to eat me because I have poison in my skin which tastes horrible.

Now, for some really weird points - I can contract my belly segments taking water in through my butt and extracting oxygen from it in my respiratory tree. So, I actually breathe through my poopcha. I eat through my tube feet. And I serve as a babysitter and sea taxi taking along baby crabs where they are protected from other predators. Unfortunately, parasites can punch holes in my skin and then suck out my vital fluids, which means I become very ill. Scientists haven't figured out how long I live. Our community is large in number but because we disintegrate once brought to the surface, nobody's been able to determine if we are endangered. Why am I called a pig anyway? Because I have puffy legs, am fat, pink and like a land pig have a rounded body. Oink oink!!

www.montereybayaquarium.org/animals/animals-a-to-z/sea-pig

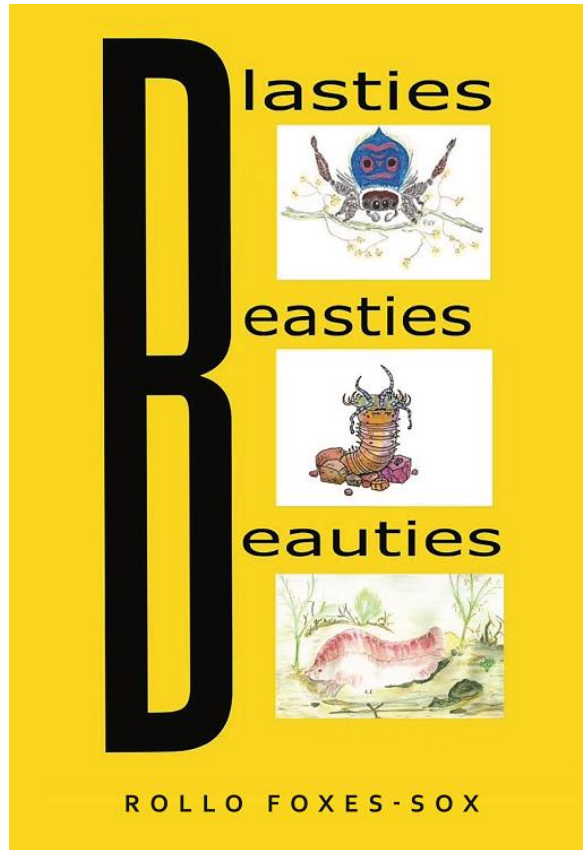
www.iflscience.com/barbie-pigs-among-strange-and-possibly-new-to-science-species-discovered-in-the-pacific-73539

Illustration

Barbie, The Sea Pigmy



Barbie trolling the bottom of the sea
looking for some morsels of food.



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