

“ The macro-world of the reef is full of surprises. On a recent trip to the Raja Ampat Islands we discovered that rather than there being three or four types of pygmy sea horse, as we expected, there were actually around seven. Most have yet to be scientifically described and might turn out to be just colour variations, or even types of closely-related pipehorse or pipefish. However, it clearly demonstrates how diverse places such as West Papua are – and how little we know about these habitats. Who knows how many other species are out there, just waiting to be discovered? ”



△ *Hippocampus denise*. Raja Ampat Islands, West Papua, Indonesia.



△ *Hippocampus denise* var. Raja Ampat Islands, West Papua, Indonesia.



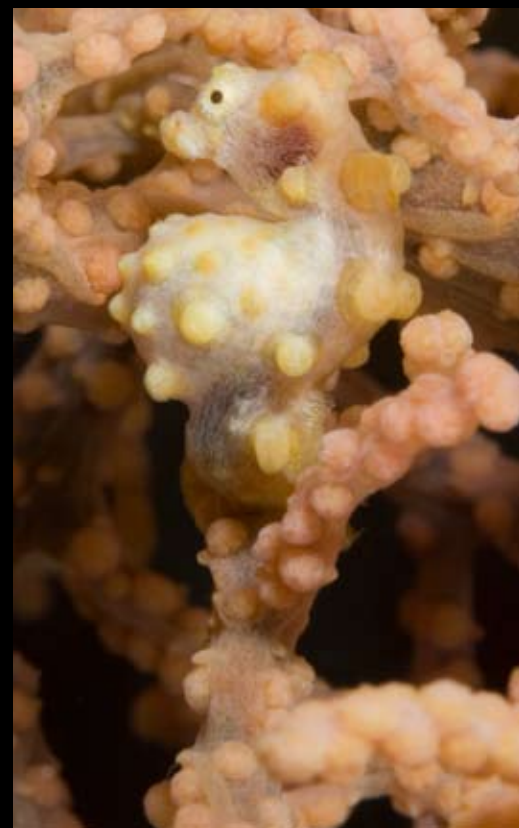
Most pygmy sea horses (*Hippocampus bargibanti*) have not been scientifically described. It is likely that there are yet more species waiting to be found. Kapalai, Sabah, Malaysia.



△ Undescribed species. Lembeh Straits, Sulawesi, Indonesia.



△ *Hippocampus pontohi*. Raja Ampat Islands, West Papua, Indonesia.



△ *Hippocampus bargibanti* var. Raja Ampat Islands, West Papua, Indonesia.