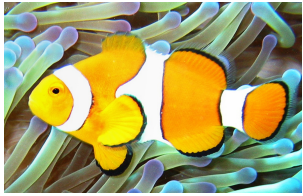


CREATION MOMENTS

Proclaiming Evidence for Truth

THIS WEEK'S CREATION MOMENT

The Surprising Clownfish



Read Hebrews 4:16

The often beautiful but always deadly sea anemone is basically a mouth and stomach, surrounded by grasping, stinging arms, attached to the sea floor. When a passing fish brushes up against the arms, thousands of microscopic stinging cells in each arm

fire, stunning him. Then the arms slowly start working the fish toward and into the anemone's mouth in the center of the arms.

It is this deadly environment that the clownfish calls home. The clownfish is so named for its bright colors, but the name could as well apply to many aspects of its lifestyle. The clownfish lives among the stinging arms of the anemone without harm because it coats itself with the same mucus that prevents the arms from stinging themselves. And, of course, the arms provide the clownfish with a safe refuge from enemies.

Clownfish mate for life, each pair staking out its own anemone. Their offspring gradually begin to populate surrounding anemones. But if the female dies, the male will change into a female and seek a mate from among the oldest of its unmated male offspring.

Clearly the arrangement between the anemone and the clownfish was designed to be that way from the beginning. Those who think this arrangement evolved must invent an imaginative explanation of how the clownfish learned to protect itself from the stinging arms of the anemone. No, the wisdom and beauty of this relationship is characteristic of the Creator.

Prayer: Dear Lord, I thank You for the great beauty which surrounds us in the creation every day. Let Your forgiving grace be my protection in my relationships with others. Amen.

Notes: Rotman, Jeffrey L. 1984. "Living World." *Science* 84. p. 28.

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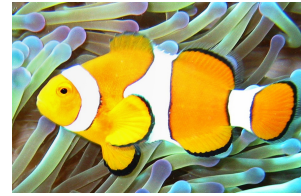
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