

**SLIME-  
INATORS**  
& Other  
Slippery Tricksters

# SLIME SLEEPERS

## PARROTFISH



by Ellen Lawrence



**[Intentionally Left Blank]**



# SLIME SLEEPERS

## PARROTFISH

by Ellen Lawrence

**Consultant:**

**David R. Bellwood**

Distinguished Professor of Marine Biology  
College of Science and Engineering  
ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies  
James Cook University  
Townsville, Australia

**BEARPORT**  
PUBLISHING

New York, New York

## Credits

Cover, © Ito Fukuo/Minden Pictures; 4, © Brian Kinney/Shutterstock; 5, © Reinhard Dirscherl/FLPA; 6T, © KrysztOf Odziomek/Shutterstock; 6B, © Amar and Isabelle Guillen/Alamy; 7, © Borat Furlan/Getty Images; 8T, © Subphoto/Shutterstock; 8B, © ifish/iStock Photo; 9, © Rich Carey/Shutterstock; 10, © Vanessa Devolder/Alamy; 11, © David Fleetham/Nature Picture Library; 12, © Vlad61/Shutterstock; 13, © Humberto Ramirez/Getty Images; 14, © Ito Fukuo/Minden Pictures; 15, © Rich Carey/Shutterstock; 16, © Allan Connell; 17, © atese/iStock Photo; 18, © blickwinkel/Alamy; 19, © Amar and Isabelle Guillen/Alamy; 20, © Steve Bloom Images/Alamy; 21, © Jeff Rotman/Alamy; 22L, © fullempy/Shutterstock; 22R, © Pressmaster/Shutterstock; 23TL, © paintings/Shutterstock; 23TC, © Adam Ke/Shutterstock; 23TR, © Zykov Vladimir/Shutterstock; 23BL, © Steve Bloom Images/Alamy; 23BC, © Creative Commons; 23BR, © Rich Carey/Shutterstock.

Publisher: Kenn Goin

Senior Editor: Joyce Tavalacci

Creative Director: Spencer Brinker

Photo Researcher: Ruth Owen Books

## *Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data*

Names: Lawrence, Ellen, 1967– author.

Title: Slime sleepers : parrotfish / by Ellen Lawrence.

Description: New York, New York : Bearport Publishing, [2019] | Series:

Slime-inators & other slippery tricksters | Includes  
bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2018014422 (print) | LCCN 2018020338 (ebook) |

ISBN 9781684027439 (ebook) | ISBN 9781684026975 (library)

Subjects: LCSH: Parrotfishes—Juvenile literature.

Classification: LCC QL638.S3 (ebook) | LCC QL638.S3 L39 2019 (print) |

DDC 597/.7—dc23

LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2018014422>

Copyright © 2019 Bearport Publishing Company, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in whole or in part, stored in any retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without written permission from the publisher.


For more information, write to Bearport Publishing Company, Inc., 45 West 21st Street, Suite 3B, New York, New York 10010. Printed in the United States of America.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



# Contents

Time for Breakfast .....	4
Meet a Parrotfish.....	6
Feeding Time .....	8
Parrotfish Poop.....	10
A Slimy Coat .....	12
Keep Away! .....	14
Tiny Slimers .....	16
Big Change!.....	18
Amazing Parrotfish .....	20
Science Lab .....	22
Science Words .....	23
Index .....	24
Read More.....	24
Learn More Online .....	24
About the Author .....	24



# Time for Breakfast

It's early morning on a **coral reef**.

A parrotfish is just waking up.

Its body is surrounded by a clear bubble of gooey slime.

The fish bites a hole in the slime.

Then it swims away to munch on **algae** growing on the coral.

A coral reef is made up of millions of tiny animals called coral polyps (POL-ips). When these polyps die, their skeletons are left behind, forming the rocklike reef.



a coral reef



coral

How do you think  
parrotfish got their name?

bubble of slime

parrotfish



# Meet a Parrotfish

There are about 90 different kinds of parrotfish.

Some are only a few inches long.

The biggest kinds can grow to be 4 feet (1.2 m) long!

Most are brightly colored—just like a type of bird called a parrot.

Many have mouths, too, that are shaped like a parrot's beak!

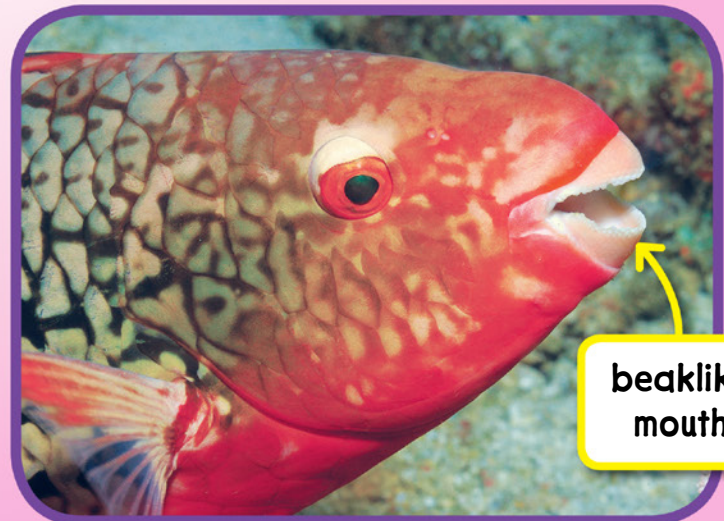
bright colors



parrot's beak



beaklike mouth





A close-up photograph of a parrotfish with vibrant blue, pink, and white patterns on its head. A small, dark cleaner wrasse is perched on the parrotfish's head. The background is a blurred coral reef.

parrotfish

A parrotfish keeps its skin clean with help from smaller fish called cleaner wrasses. The wrasses eat tiny shrimp-like **parasites** that suck the parrotfish's blood.

cleaner wrasse