

Animal, Vegetable or Mineral?



This is based on an old guessing game where one person thinks of something and the others have to ask questions to discover what it is. You might start with 'Animal, vegetable or mineral?' to help you narrow it down to an animal, a plant or an object (like a rock).

Things in the deep-sea can be so unfamiliar that you might find it hard to decide looking at these pictures!

Look at the back to discover
if you were correct!

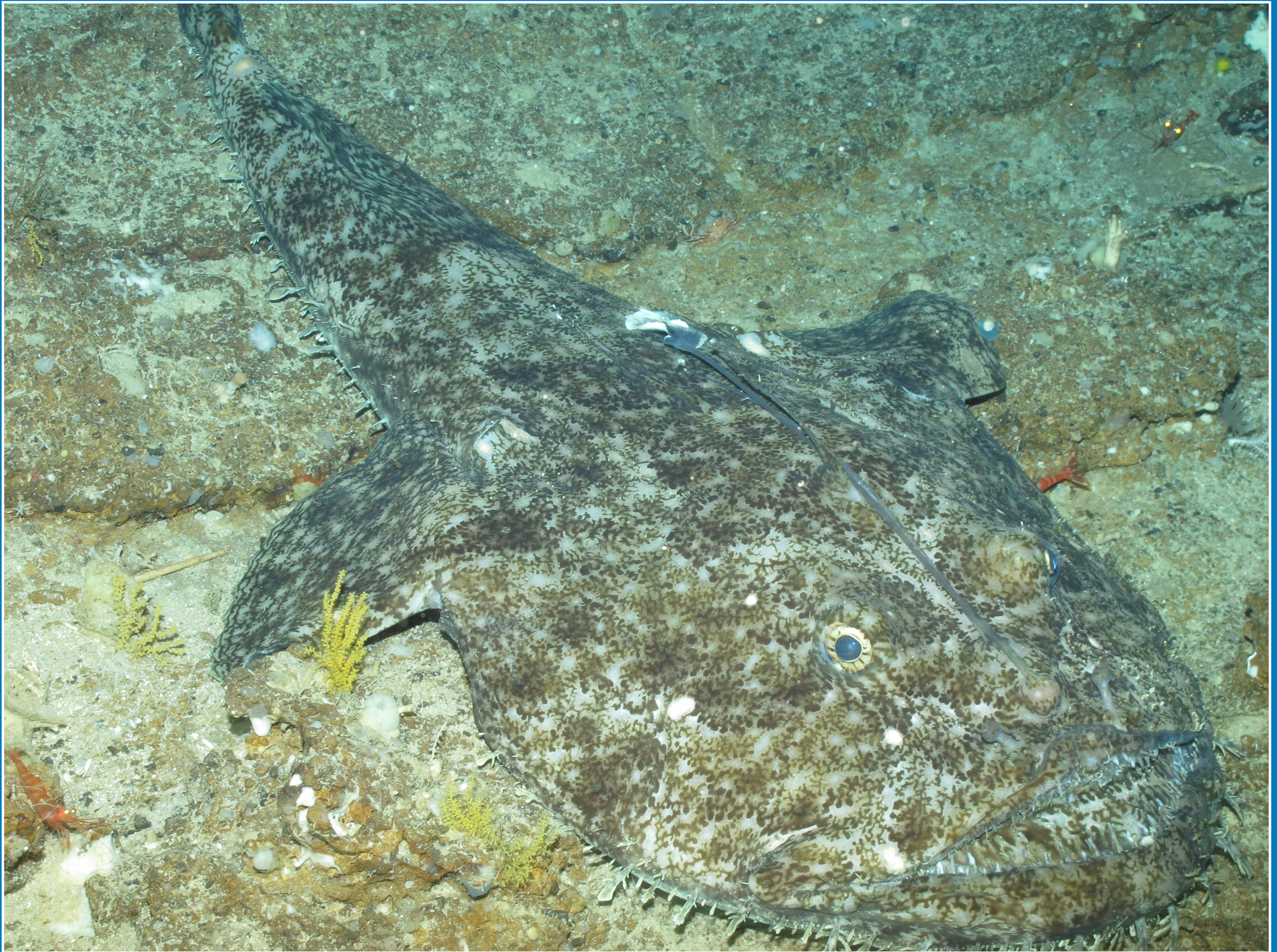


All these images were taken on the MEDWAVES expedition during September 2016, thanks to Covadonga Orejas for allowing their use.





*This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 678760 (**ATLAS**). This outcome reflects only the author's view and cannot be held responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.*



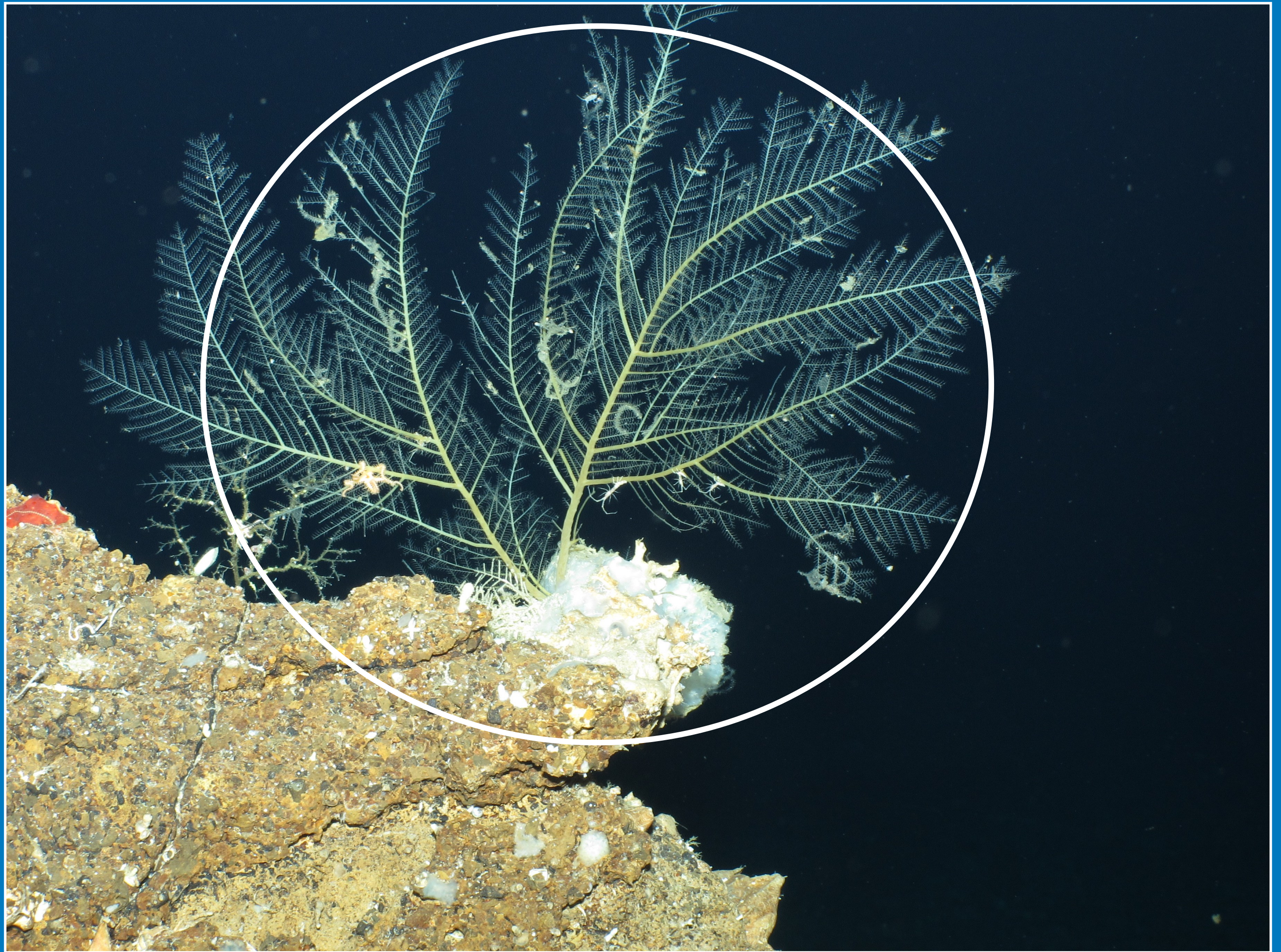
Animal

The Monkfish hides on the sea floor—using its camouflage to blend in. The stalk on its face is a lure it uses as bait to attract its prey.



Animal/Mineral

Ok, we cheated—it's sort of both! These are pieces of 'coral rubble' which are broken bits of coral skeleton. When the coral is alive, it should be classed as an animal, even though it can look very like rock or even a plant. Now that the coral is dead, these pieces could be slowly buried and might eventually turn into a form of rock called 'limestone'.



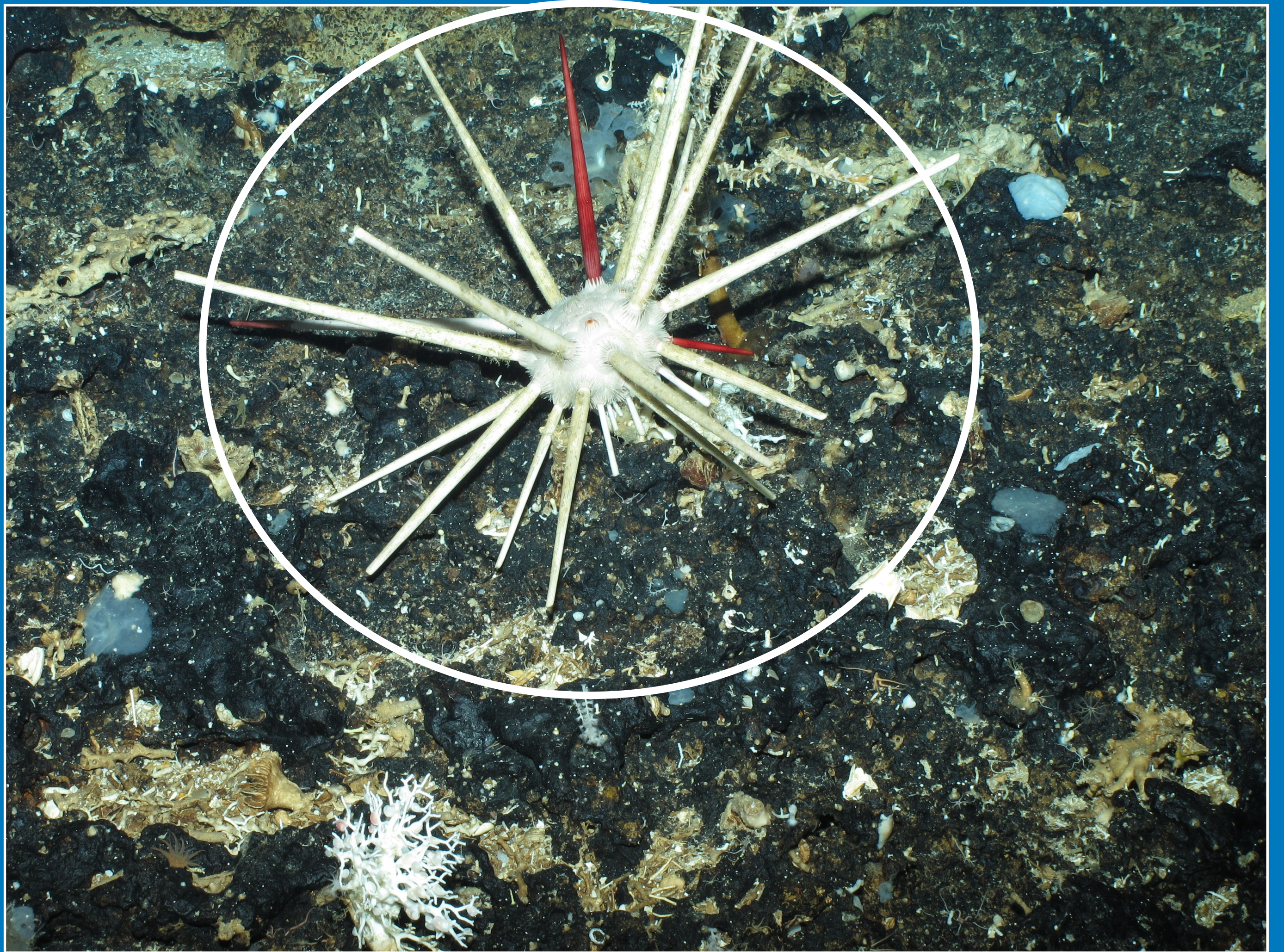
Animal

It might look like a plant but this is actually an animal called a hydroid. Like corals, they have special stinging cells to catch food and mouths all over their bodies! You can also see lots of brittlestars (related to starfish) with their arms wrapped around the hydroid.



Animal

This fish is called an Oreo!



Animal

Some sea urchins have venomous spines
to defend against predators.



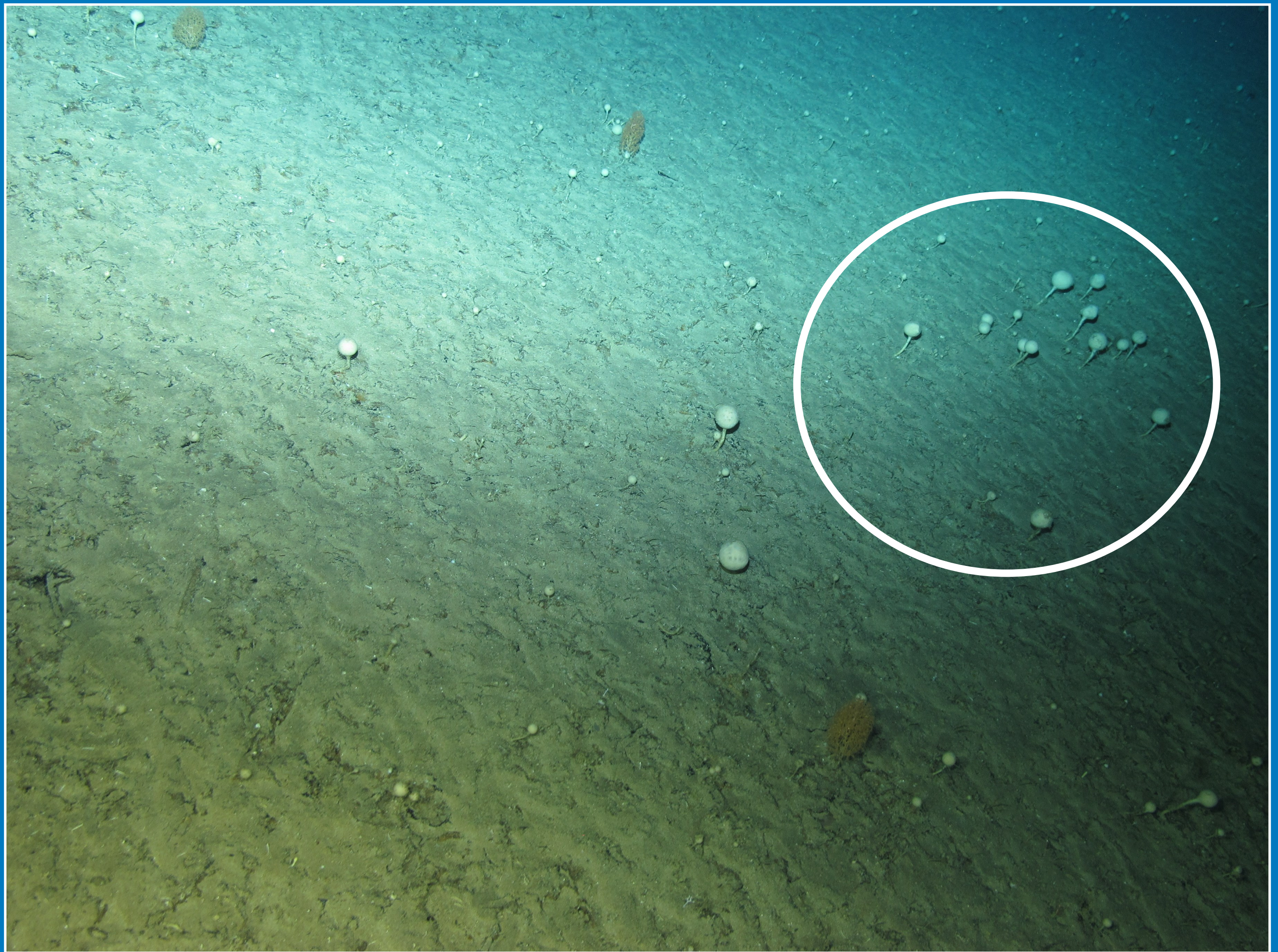
Animal

Lobsters have blue blood!



Animal

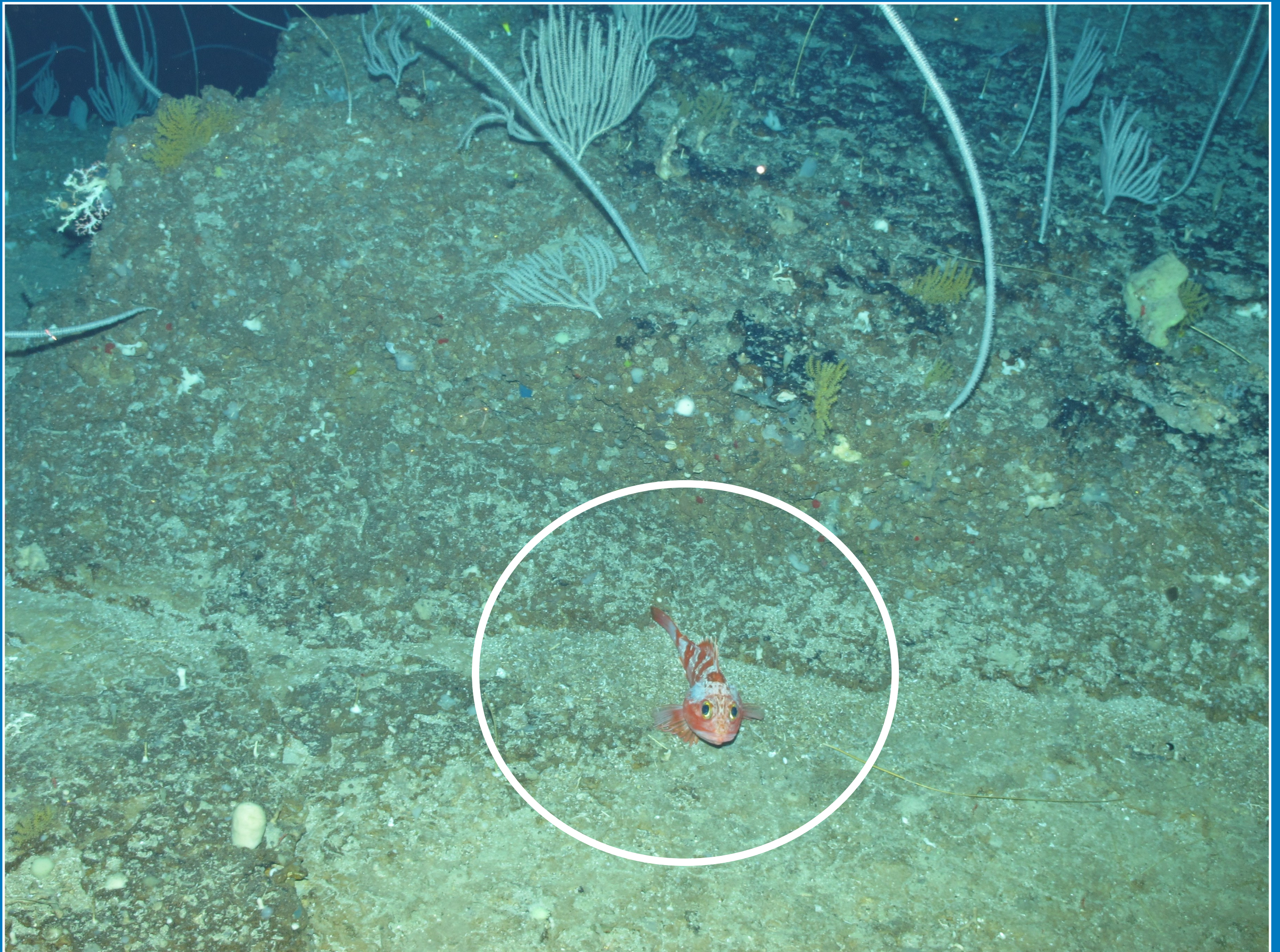
Although the hard exoskeleton of coral is made up of the same stuff as limestone or chalk (calcium carbonate), it is an animal not a rock. Confusingly, it also looks quite plant-like!



Animal

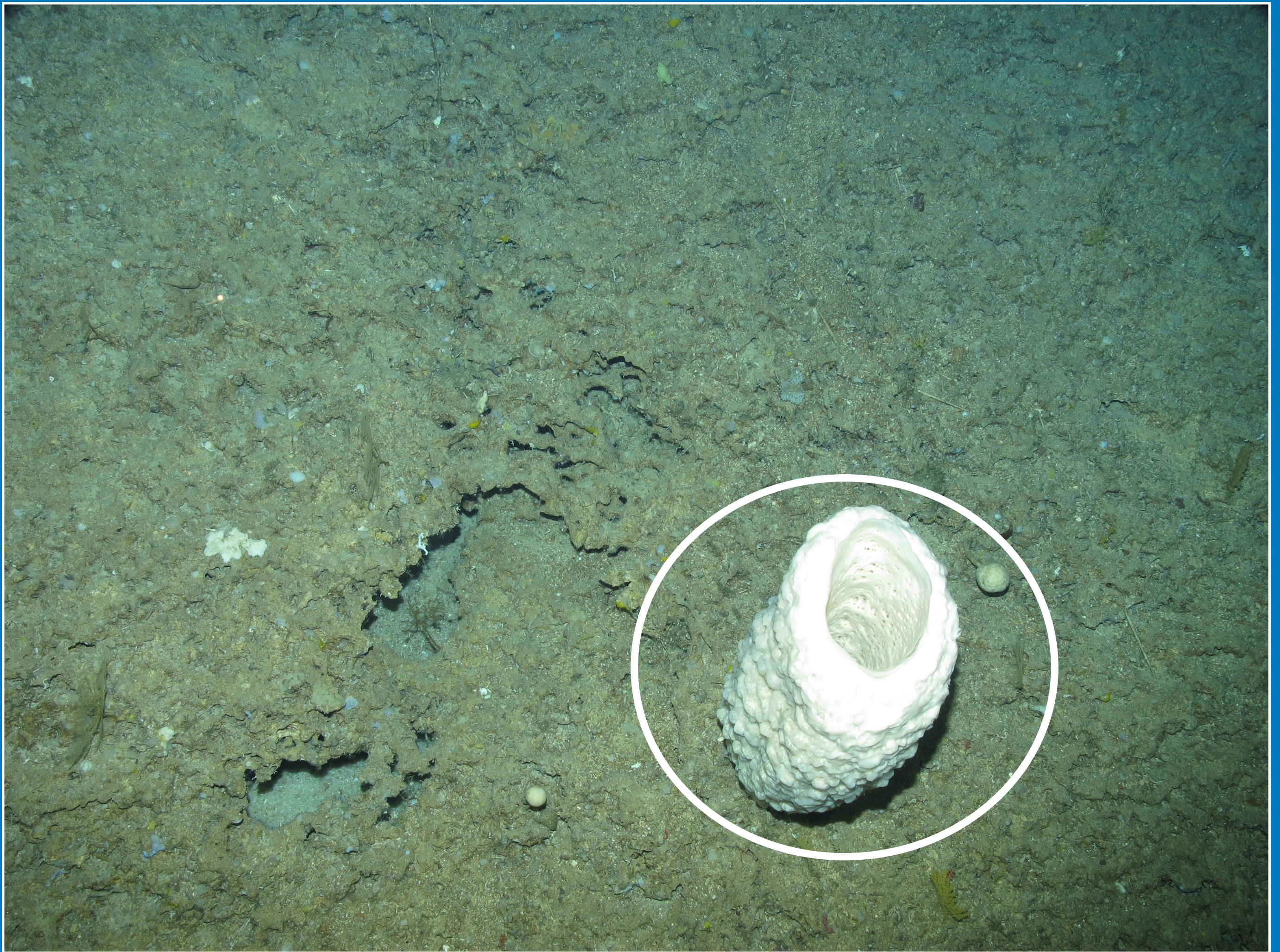
Sponges are a really simple type of animal—so simple they don't have a nervous system.

These sponges look a bit like mushrooms!



Animal

This fish is called a redfish—can you guess why?



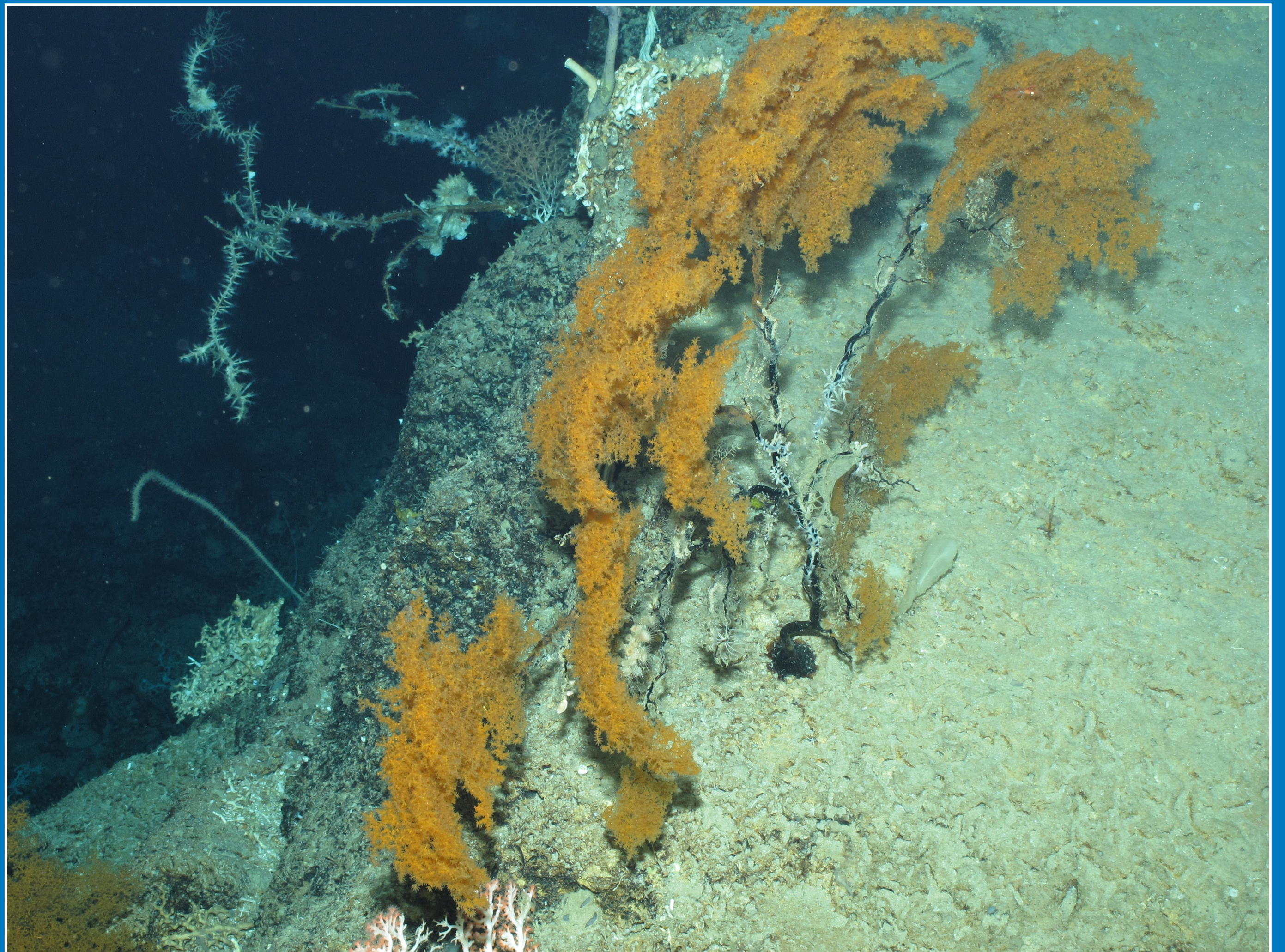
Animal

Some sponges like this chamber sponge have other animals living inside them.



Animal

Anemones poo out of their mouths!



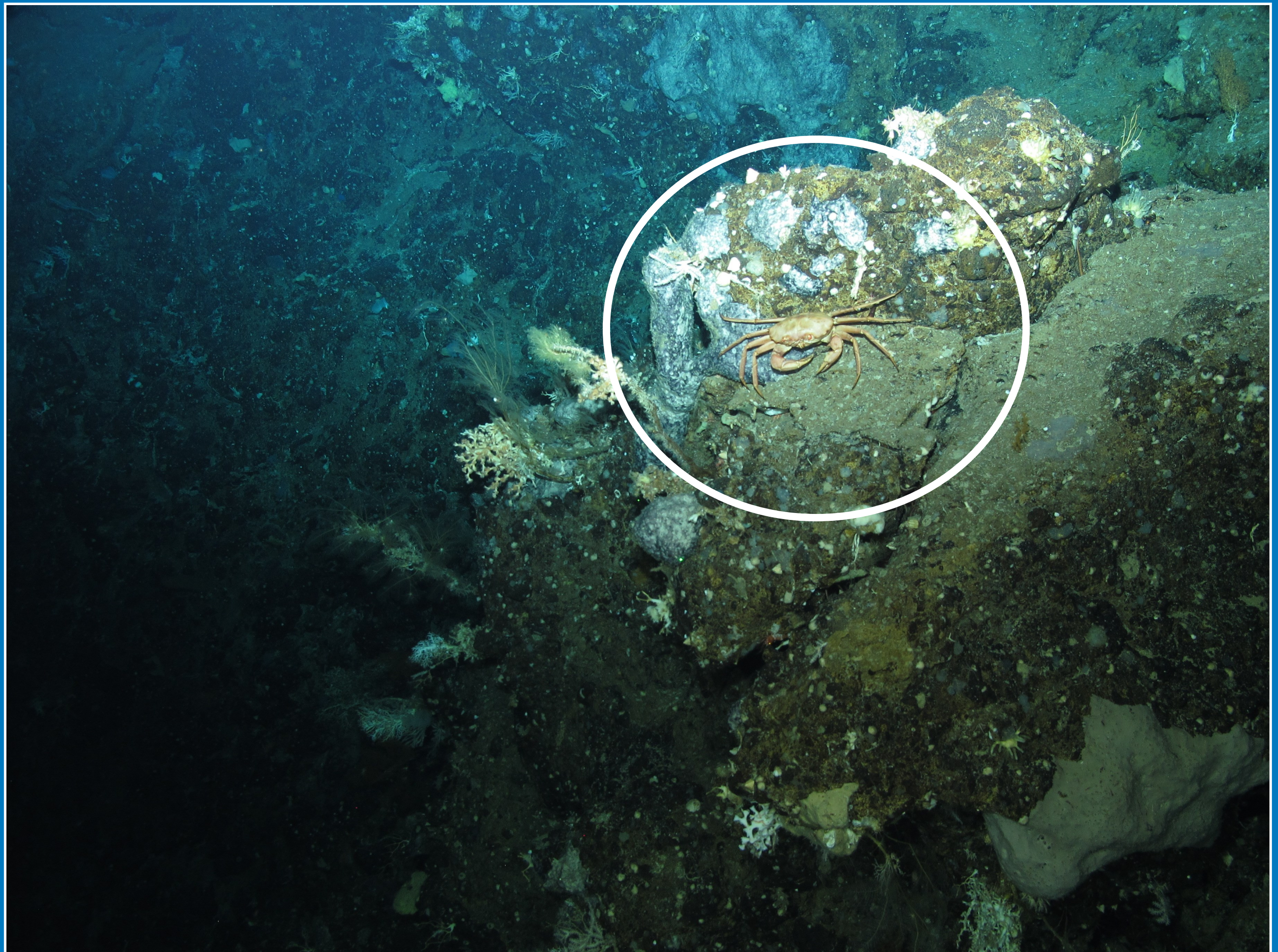
Animal

Corals aren't just one animal, they are a colony of lots of little creatures called polyps. This one is called a 'black coral', can you spot why?!



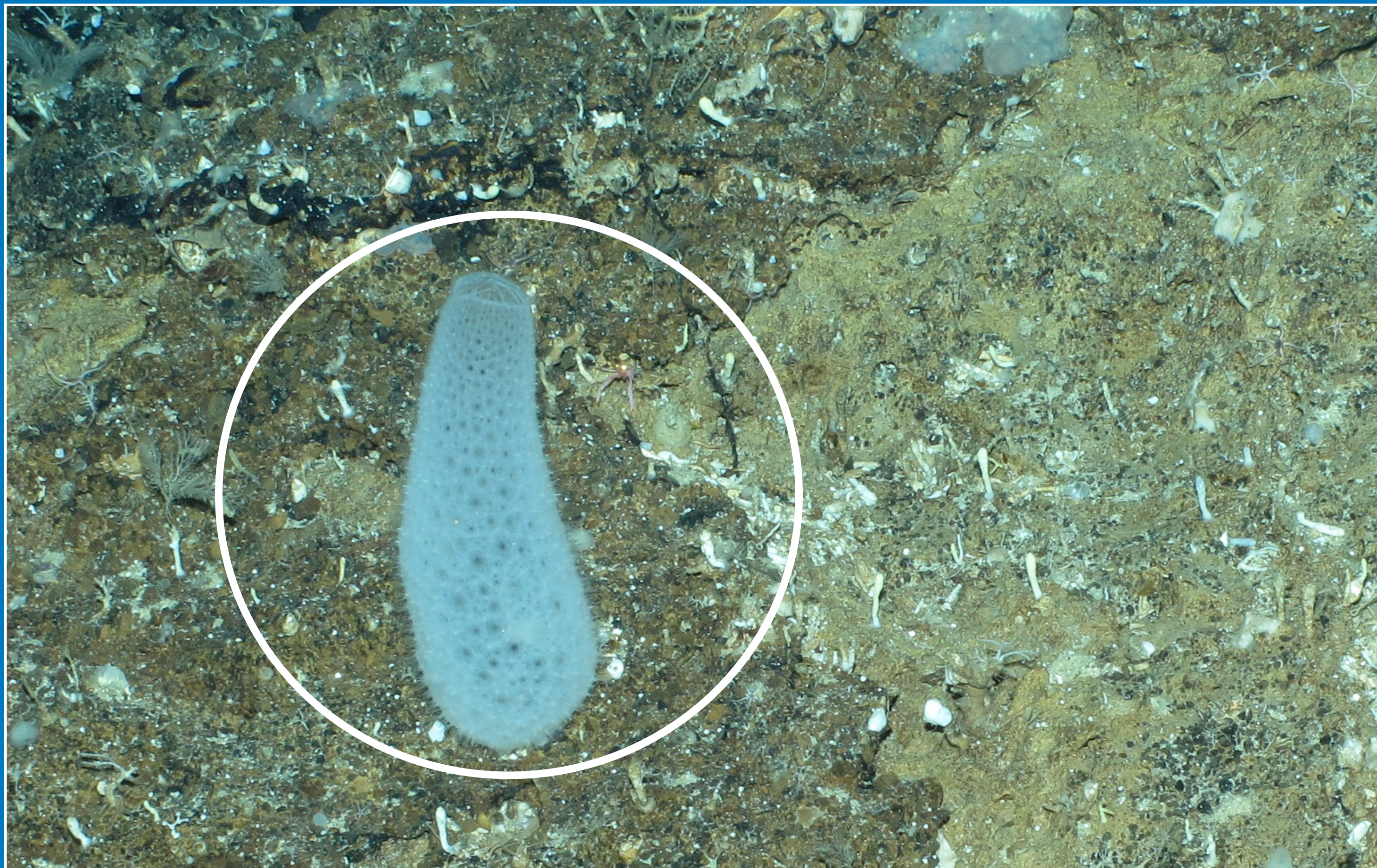
Animal

Despite its name, the sea cucumber is
an animal.



Animal

Crabs live all over the world—in all the oceans, in freshwater and even on land!



Animal

This type of sponge is called a Glass Sponge. Their exoskeletons form beautiful translucent patterns out of silica.