

CREATION MOMENTS

Proclaiming Evidence for Truth

THIS WEEK'S CREATION MOMENT

Digging Is a Snap



For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: (Romans 12:4)

The strange partnership between the snapping shrimp and the goby is absolutely necessary if both creatures are to survive. The nearly blind shrimp relies

on the small fish in the same way a blind person relies on his Seeing Eye dog. And the goby relies on the safety of the complex tunnel system the shrimp digs.

The shrimp is well designed for digging. Once a tunnel is started, the shrimp can dig a burrow large enough for both itself and the goby within a few hours. Each of its five pairs of legs is specialized. The first pair of claws is designed for carrying sediment out of the burrow. The second pair of legs is designed to probe for and clean objects as well as scratching sediment from walls. Pairs three, four and five are walking legs that also work well for scratching material from tunnel walls. On its abdomen, the shrimp has several appendages that allow it to move rapidly to protection. Other appendages can create water currents that shift sand back from the digging site.

The snapping shrimp, which is less than two inches long, can dig a system of tunnels covering several square feet within a few days. The burrow will have several entrances, as much as four feet apart. All lead to a chamber at the deepest point of the system.

The Creator has given both the goby and the shrimp different gifts that they both need to live. If they did not share their gifts with each other, neither could survive. What gifts has the Creator given you to share?

Ref: Yanagisawa, Y. 1990. "Strange seabed fellows." *Natural History*, Aug. p. 46. Photo: Snapping shrimp with goby. Courtesy of Steve Childs. (CC BY 2.0)

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