



Wonders of GOD'S Creation

Clowning Around With Anemones

God created an odd pair when He designed the clownfish and the sea anemone. Sea anemones look like plants, but are fish-eating creatures equipped with toxin-filled tentacles designed to quickly incapacitate their prey and drag it toward their terrifying, hungry little mouths.

Clownfish are fish that live among those tentacles (merciless, fish-killing tentacles, in case that was unclear).

When God designed the clownfish, He gave it a protective layer of mucus that seems to block the sea anemone from identifying it as a meal and attacking it. The result is a peculiar symbiosis—a fish that makes its home among the tendrils of a fish-killing trap.

Both parties benefit from this arrangement. The clownfish finds a safe haven from would-be predators and food scraps from the sea anemone's meals, while the anemone gains a live-in groomer whose movements and excretions allow it to grow bigger and healthier than it would on its own. The clownfish's bright colors may even help to lure in potential prey. It's a perfect setup—unless, of course, you're an inquisitive fish who swims in for a closer look.

Pictured here: the lightning maroon clownfish (*Premnas biaculeatus*) and the "wild green" bubble-tip anemone (*Entacmaea quadricolor*)

Photo by James Capo, with special thanks to Fishy Bizness Saltwater Fish and Corals; text by James Capo and Jeremy Lallier