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The editorial staff joins me in wishing you all a refreshing and happy holiday season. Sincerely,

Janet Seggie



One of the most iconic creatures of the east coast, the horneyed ghost crab Ocypode ceratophthalmus haunts exposed sandy beaches. It digs deep holes high on the beach and emerges to scavenge for food. It feeds on a variety of animals and isn't choosy - anything from newly hatched turtles to stranded whales. Three species occur on our shores. The function of the long 'horns' that decorate and distinguish this species is an unknown mystery. The larger 'nipper' has a hairy ridge on the 'palm', which can be rubbed against the body to produce a rasping sound during courtship or aggression.

Photo and text: George Branch Email: mbranch@mweb.co.za

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