

**McCammon, A., Sikkel, P.C., Nemith, D. (2009). Effects of three Caribbean cleaner shrimps on ectoparasitic monogeneans in a semi-natural environment. Coral reefs.**

Between 2007, 2008 and 2009, Dr. Paul Sikkel conducted an experimental study at Coral World Ocean Park to determine whether three species of shrimp (the Pederson shrimp, *Periclimenes perdersoni*, the spotted shrimp, *Periclimenes yucatanicus*, and the banded coral shrimp, *Stenopus hispidus*) were effective at removing the parasitic monogenean species (*Neobenedenia melleni*) from blue tangs (*Acanthurus coeruleus*). Results from the study strongly suggest that the Pederson shrimp can effectively reduce the size and amount of *N. melleni* parasites from an infected blue tang host. Although the other two species have been suggested as potential parasitic cleaners, this study did find a significant effect of these species on parasite size and abundance. In addition to these results, the author suggests that the presence of *Bartholomea annulata* anemones on coral reefs can indirectly reduce host parasitic load (the number of parasites that infect a host) since these anemones provide habitats for the Pederson shrimp.

**Loerch, S.M., McCammon, A.M., Sikkel, P.C. (2015). Low susceptibility of invasive Indo-Pacific lionfish *Pterois volitans* to ectoparasitic *Neobenedenia* in the eastern Caribbean. Environ Biol Fish, 98: 1979-1985.**

Paul Sikkel conducted another experimental study during the spring and summer of 2012 and 2013 at Coral World Ocean Park to determine the susceptibility of lionfish to *Neobenedenia paragueraensis*, a common Caribbean ectoparasite that affects many species of reef fish. Results from this study strongly suggest that lionfish are not susceptible to this parasite, since only one out of 24 exposed individuals became infected with *N. paragueraensis* during the experimental study. Conversely, all blue tangs used in the study were infected with an average of ten *N. paragueraensis* parasites throughout the experiment.