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Single video: <https://youtu.be/-O35tSR6l9g>



Group video: https://youtu.be/We_AM_oSqbc?si=dM0GUSroCmjZgssC





Hermit crabs are a group of decapod crustaceans that live in the tropics and subtropics. They are known for their habit of using discarded shells as homes. This behavior is called 'hermitism'. Hermit crabs are found in a variety of habitats, including beaches, forests, and mountains. They are important for the ecosystem as they help to recycle nutrients and provide food for other animals.



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-68071685>

BBC talks about this.

"We saw it in two-thirds of all terrestrial hermit crab species," said Prof Szulkin.

"This whole group of crabs have adapted to scavenge and use discarded shell shells to protect their fragile bodies. And when those shells are in short supply, the crabs will fight over them."

-Shaun

Links for man-made shells

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0048969723075885>

<https://phys.org/news/2024-01-tropical-coasts-hermit-crabs-homes.html>

-Shaun

Highlights

Terrestrial hermit crabs now use [artificial shells](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.science.2023.105885) instead of natural shells for protection.

Ecology identified 380 crabs with artificial shells from imagery posted online.

10 of 16 terrestrial hermit crab species were found to exhibit this behaviour globally.

Sexual signaling, shell weight, colour cues and pollution may drive this behavioural shift in shell choice.

Research is needed to assess the impact of this behaviour on hermit crab evolution.

-Shaun



Bibliography

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<https://www.polygon.com/features/2018/10/10/17952674/the-12-best-indie-metroidvania-games> (accessed Apr. 25, 2024).
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- [3] “Plastic shells,” Plastic Shells - an overview | ScienceDirect Topics, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/earth-and-planetary-sciences/plastic-shells> (accessed Apr. 29, 2024).