

Shell Preference in the Hermit Crab *Pagurus longicarpus* in Relation to Epibiota Covering of the Shell

This study looked at shell selection in the long-clawed hermit crab and whether a preference was shown for clean or epibiont-covered shells. Ten hermit crabs (*Pagurus longicarpus*) were given a choice between shells with epibionts on them, and shells on which the epibionts had been removed. After 24 hours, the occupied shell was taken as the preference. They were tested in three trials, a trial of 6 shells, (3 clean, 3 epibiont-covered), a trial of 4 shells (2 clean, and 2 epibiont-covered) and a trial of 2 shells (1 clean and 1 epibiont-covered). No significant difference was found in their shell preferences.

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