

The Brothers Trip February 2007

My regular dive buddy, Ken and I decided to take a trip to the Brothers in February 2007 at a few days notice as the price was very attractive and we both wanted some more shark experiences; virtually guaranteed at the Brothers. The boat was the Hurricane which was quite a bit larger than Orchid and carried 22 passengers. We flew into Hurghada airport and spent the first diving day and at Gota Abu Ramada a reef system south of Hurghada. This was very pleasant and it was here that we did the only night dive of the trip. I was trying out my new U/W camera, a Canon Powershot 540 so was glad to have a few no-brainer dives to get to grips with it. Overnight we sailed to Big Brother where we spent 2 days and then moved to Little Brother where we spent a further 2 days. There are no safe locations for night dives at the Brothers so it was a basic 3 dive day for the whole period. Probably just as well as we started with a dip to 40m plus on virtually every dive in our search for sharks.

In fact we saw very few sharks at Big Brother, mainly Threshers on the 40m shelf at the Southern end and the odd glimpse when drifting along the walls but far below. No real photo opportunities as they were always too far away or it was too dark for sensible photography. Still we had some excellent diving and managed to make a more satisfactory exploration of the Numidia and the Aida this time.

Little Brother was very different. We started most dives at the 40m ridge at the Northern end of the island and saw grey reef sharks there on each dive. Not many of the pictures came out well as I hoped as I was still learning how to use the camera. However, we got enough to provide convincing evidence. On day 5 we sailed back to the mainland and anchored near Panorama Reef where we did our morning dive on the 6th day. I had forgotten how good this reef system was and we got some very nice pictures, including Xmas Tree worms which I do not remember seeing before. Last dive was very forgettable, on the gunboat in Hurghada harbour. I thought this was a pants dive in 1990 and it certainly has not improved. It would have been much better if we had been allowed to stay at Panorama for the last dive of our holiday. Our last night was in a the Sunrise hotel, quite pleasant and only 5 minutes from the airport.

Whilst we enjoyed the trip, I think in retrospect that 4 full days at the Brothers is too much and would not do it again. There are no night dive facilities and in practise you are diving the same sites over and over mainly trying to find the sharks. In addition, sheltered moorings are at a premium so its not overly comfortable even on a large boat. I would not travel on Hurricane again either. Somehow I felt that the captain had his own agenda not connected with our holiday. Nothing specific just lots of little things that annoyed or seemed unnecessary. I raised some of these points with Tony Backhurst when we got back and whilst I think he was sympathetic, the comments were rejected out of hand by the boat's owner. I will be interested to hear other peoples views on Hurricane, perhaps we were just unlucky.

First time out with my new Canon Powershot 540. Bought mainly to get a better quality video (640x480 instead of 320x240) Results a bit patchy, especially the closeup stuff wheer the old Olympus seemed much better able to cope with macro work.

If you click on any pictures which have a black background, you can link to a video clip. These are being added slowly as they take a long time to prepare.



Ken examining the Aida on Big Brother



Butterfly Fish at Gota Abu Ramada



Colourful Giant Clams



Dolphins of Little Brother



Anchored off Little Brother



Big Bother with lighthouse and jetty



Moray with Cleaner Wrasse in attendance



A very large Napoleon off Little Brother



Captain Nemo makes his first appearance with Clown Fish



Dropping down onto the Numidia



A Nudibranch of some type



A different type of Nudibranch found on the night dive



Grey Reef Shark off the Northern tip of Little Brother



Another Grey Reef at little Brother



Pretty Soft Corals somewhere on the Brothers



Sunset at Little Brother



A Titan Trigger Fish trying to hide



Swimming the wall at Big Brother after leaving the Numidia



Reef wall on Little Brother



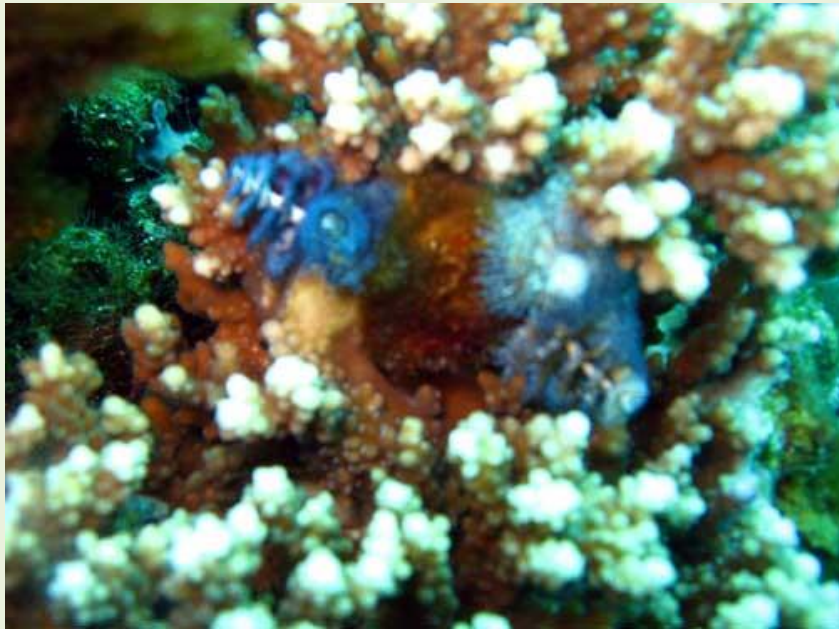
Not sure what this is but the colours were striking



Christmas Tree worm



Another Christmas Tree worm



And yet another Christmas Tree worm



A File Fish, odd looking creatures

