

# DEVIL SCORPIONFISH

## Where's the fish?

Look closely—there's a fish in this picture. It was taken in our lionfish exhibit, but it isn't a lionfish.



### By any other name

Devil scorpionfish are also known as Hawaiian stonefish, false stonefish, nohu 'omakaha and *Scorpaenopsis diabolus*.

### Family ties

The devil scorpionfish is related to stonefish, but isn't a stonefish. True stonefish in the genus *Synanceia* live in tropical waters of the Indo-Pacific, but not in Hawaii.

However, when early immigrants from Tahiti came to Hawaii, they applied the name "stonefish" or "nohu" to this animal.



### Common ground

Devil scorpionfish have many things in common with the stonefish they were mistakenly named after: they're super-camouflaged, venomous,

ambush predators. Stonefish are famous for venom that can be deadly to a human, but the devil scorpionfish's sting isn't that strong.

### Now you don't see me... now you do!

Devil scorpionfish are camouflage masters. They break camouflage when disturbed, by spreading out their pectoral fins to reveal a jolt of color as a warning to whatever animal has gotten too close.