



Featured Creature

Location: John Brown's Beach, Sitka, AK

Data entered by: _____



R. Rangel

Hairy hermit crab

Pagurus hirsutiusculus



Animal Type
Invertebrate



Habitat
Rocky intertidal tidepools



Diet
Scavenger (eats decaying matter)



Range
Central Alaska to Monterey Bay, CA

Fun Fact!

Hermit crabs can be either left or right handed. It depends on which claw is bigger. The hairy hermit crab is **right-handed!**

Researcher Spotlight



Racine Rangel
PhD Student
UC Irvine
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What do I study?

I study how climate change is affecting the physiology, or metabolism, of intertidal species such as non-moving mussels or rambunctious hermit crabs.

Why do I love my research?

I have always been passionate about protecting and advocating for the environment and pursuing the unknown within the ocean. The intertidal is a fascinating world and you never know what you're going to find when the tide is out!

A game of musical shells

Hermit crabs don't make their own shells. They take them from deceased snails and upgrade to larger shells as they grow! But many hairy hermit crabs live in shells too small for them. They can't fully retreat inside. If bothered, hairy hermit crabs abandon their shells and scurry away. Instead of using their shells as protection, they rely on speedy agility to avoid predators!