

There are : **±44** species in the world

and **4** are in Mexico

Hippocampus

Seahorses

Pacific

H. ingens

H. reidi

H. erectus

H. zoosteræ

Atlantic

Spines on the head and body

Independently swiveling eyes

Two pectoral fins for stabilizing and steering

Dorsal fin for propelled motion

Brood pouch

Bony plates instead of scales

Prehensile tail for grasping

Vertical swimming

Macroalgae

Soft corals

Intertidal zone

Seagrass meadows

Mangroves

Sponges

Reef

They feed on:

Shrimp

Worms

Amphipods

Copepods

Crustacean larvae

Are prey of:

Fishes

Crabs

The toothless tubular snout sucks prey.

Life Cycle

Adults

Juvenile

They hatch 3-4 weeks after mating.

Some species have up to 1200 offspring per cycle.

Courtship

Females transfer the eggs to the male's brood pouch

Embryo incubation takes place inside the brood pouch

Live 4 to 5 years

The male with the largest brood pouch

H. abdominalis

Masters of camouflage:

They have extending skin filaments called "cirrus" and change color to match their background

Cirrus

H. bargibanti

The largest

H. zoosteræ 2.5 cm

H. kuda

The smallest
H. japapigu 1.6 cm

30 cm

Threats:

Commercial fishing

Habitat destruction

Increase in water temperature

Curious and souvenirs

As aquarium pets

Garbage

Pollution

Exotic food

Chinese traditional medicine

All species are either vulnerable or in danger of extinction



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