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## **BAM! POW! SPLASH? Birch Aquarium Opens Comic Book-Inspired Exhibit**

*Oddities: Hidden Heroes of the Scripps Collections* highlights the astonishing adaptations (aka super powers) of ocean species.



**La Jolla, Calif.**—It's a Bird, It's a Plane, it's a ... Giant Tube Worm? On June 29, 2018, Birch Aquarium at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UC San Diego launched *Oddities: Hidden Heroes of the Scripps Collections*, a comic book-inspired exhibit that highlights the astonishing adaptations (aka super powers) of ocean species.

The exhibit was created in partnership with the team from the Scripps Oceanographic Collections, where millions of specimens allow scientists to understand some of the amazing adaptations marine creatures have developed to survive. From super vision and invisibility to protective armor and the ability to create electricity to zap prey, real marine creatures do amazing things every day that stretch even the wildest imagination.

"I don't think an exhibit like this would be possible anywhere else," said Harry Helling, executive director of Birch Aquarium. "It's truly a unique collaboration between the researchers of the Scripps Collections and the talented Exhibits and Education teams here at Birch Aquarium. Our guests are in for a real treat!"

The interactive exhibit includes examples of some of the most unique creatures from all depths and highlights how they have inspired everything from cinema and pop culture to medicine and

engineering. Guests learn what it takes to collect scientific samples and have the opportunity to test out some of these unique adaptations through superhero cosplay.

"We're excited to showcase some of the wonderful specimens from the Collections and to tell their stories in this playful, engaging way. By coming face-to-face with unusual specimens, visitors will get to see how our Collections empower real discoveries in science and education every day," said Charlotte Seid, manager of Scripps' Benthic Invertebrate Collection.

*Oddities* opens June 29 and will be on display through Spring 2019. The exhibit replaces the *Mexican Seas* and *Feeling the Heat* exhibits. *Oddities* is included in aquarium admission, which is \$19.50 for adults and \$15 for children. [Annual memberships are also available](#). Visit [aquarium.ucsd.edu](http://aquarium.ucsd.edu) for details.

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### **About Birch Aquarium at Scripps**

Birch Aquarium at Scripps is the public exploration center for the world-renowned Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego. Perched on a bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean, the aquarium features more than 60 habitats of fishes and invertebrates from the cold waters of the Pacific Northwest to the tropical waters of Mexico and the western Pacific. An interactive museum showcases research discoveries by Scripps scientists on climate, earth and ocean science, and features interactive elements. Accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Birch Aquarium has an annual attendance of more than 450,000, including 40,000 school children.

### **About The Scripps Oceanographic Collections**

The Scripps Oceanographic Collections are world-renowned repositories of marine samples supporting scientific research and education. The four Collections include Marine Vertebrates (fishes), Pelagic Invertebrates (zooplankton), Benthic Invertebrates (seafloor invertebrates), and Geological Collections (rocks, cores, and fossils). By preserving information about the past and present states of the ocean, these irreplaceable resources provide the basis for understanding the biodiversity, history, and future of life on Earth.

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