No Ordinary Octopus

This extraordinary creature is one of the few octopuses adapted to move about on land. The clip does not identify the species, but it is probably *Abdopus aculeatus*.

According to Wikipedia, *A. aculeatus* is about the size of a small orange and is referred to as "algae octopus," due to its typical resting camouflage, which looks as if it is overgrown with algae. It is also adept at mimicking its surroundings.

(This octopus) is found throughout intertidal zones along the Indonesian, Philippine, and Northern Australian coastlines. They primarily live in areas with abundant sea grass coverage and occupy dens built into the sandy seafloor, which they line with small pebbles. In its resting camouflage, *A. aculeatus* displays mottled ochre, gray, and brown colors that resemble a shell overgrown with algae, and dark arm bars reminiscent of hermit crab legs.

<u>Wikipedia</u>



Mating Octopuses (Abdopus-aculeatus)

They forage during the day, feeding mostly on small crustaceans, and return to their dens at night. They chase their prey by jetting to propel their body forward, head first. When they catch their prey they use their sharp beak to "drill" into its exoskeleton and reach the muscle within, most often eating their prey on site.

To the right are a pair of them mating, from The Octopus News Magazine Online.

Nature is often extraordinary, and that's the truth.

Source:

- The Octopus News Magazine Online
- Wikipedia/Abdopus aculeatus
- Why Evolution Is Real