



Cover: Dorsal (left) and ventral (right) views of a female mantis shrimp, *Odontodactylus scyllarus*. Carotenoid pigments are often used in nature to produce color patterns employed in visual signaling, and much of the coloration of stomatopod crustaceans is due to the use of carotenoids or carotenoproteins. In this issue, T.-H. Chiou, A. R. Place, R. L. Caldwell, N. J. Marshall and T. W. Cronin (pp. 584–589) show that the ketocarotenoid astaxanthin is used not only for color patterning but also to produce polarization patterns probably used in visual communication.

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