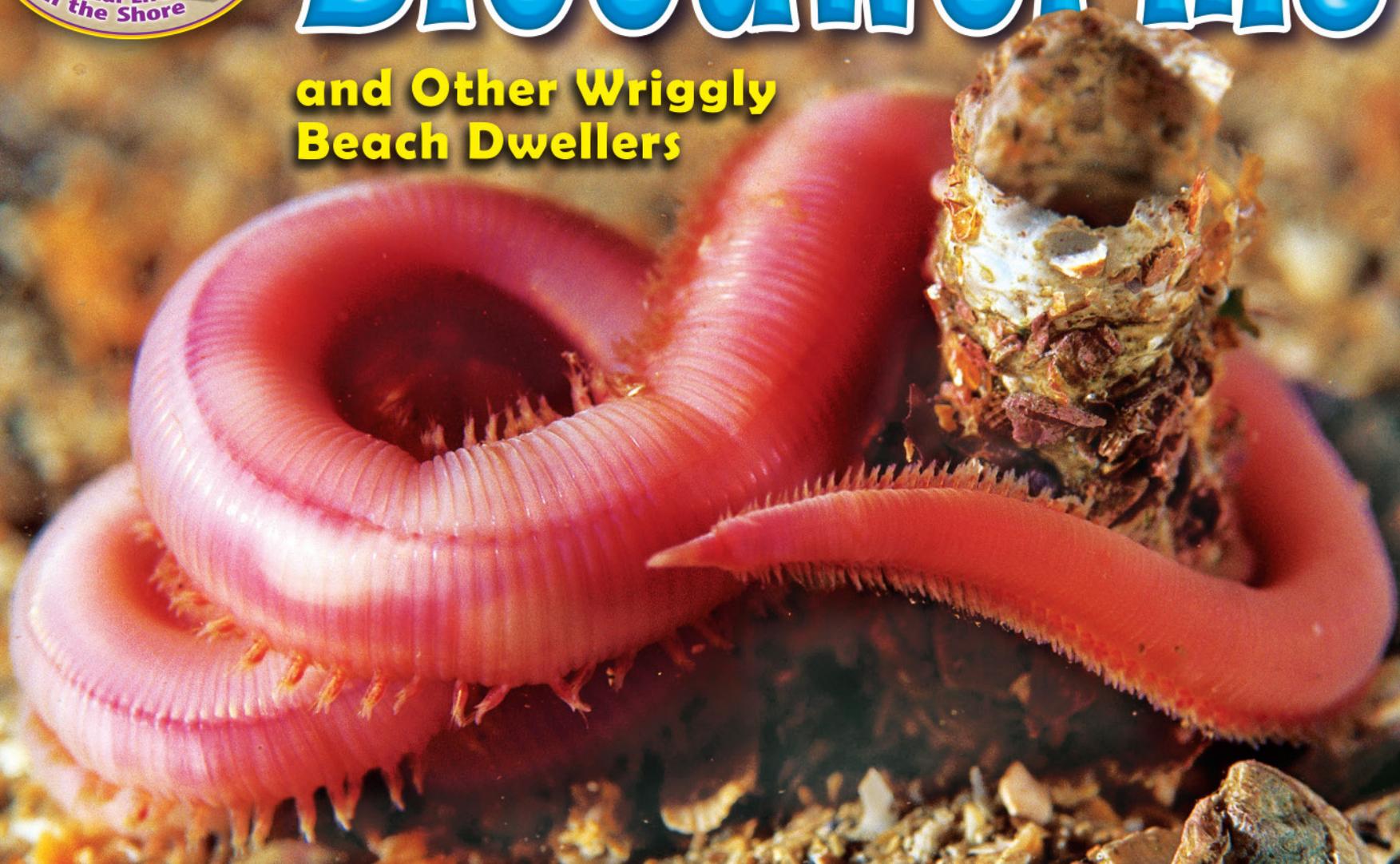


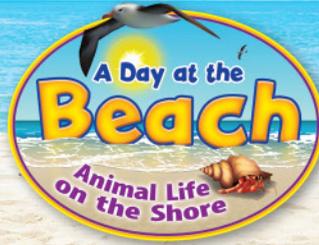
Bloodworms

and Other Wiggly
Beach Dwellers



by Ellen Lawrence

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by Ellen Lawrence

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BEARPORT
PUBLISHING

New York, New York

Credits

Cover, © age fotostock/Shutterstock; 2, © Alexander Semenov/Science Photo Library; 4T, © Leon Werdinger/Alamy; 4B, © Ekaterina Pokrovsky/Shutterstock; 5, © Gianpiero Ferrari/FLPA; 6, © age fotostock/Alamy; 7, © Daniel L. Geiger/SNAP/Alamy; 7B, © Daniel L. Geiger/SNAP/Alamy; 8, © David Fenwick; 9, © age fotostock/Alamy; 10, © Mikkel Juul Jensen/Science Photo Library; 11L, © Astrid & Hanns-Frieder Michler/Science Photo Library; 11, © Blanscape/Shutterstock; 12, © Arterra Picture Library/Alamy; 13, © imageBROKER/Alamy; 14, © Nick Upton/Nature Picture Library; 15, © K Byrne/Alamy; 16, © Flonline/FLPA; 17L, © D P Wilson/FLPA; 17, © Erica Olsen/FLPA; 18, © Steve Gschmeissner/Science Photo Library; 19, © Alexander Semenov/Science Photo Library; 20, © Wim Van Egmond/Science Photo Library; 21, © Frank Greenaway/Getty Images; 22L, © Niall Benvie/Alamy; 22R, © Bundit Yuwannasiri/Shutterstock; 23TL, © Jacek Wojnarowski/Shutterstock; 23TC, © Colorshadow/Shutterstock; 23TR, © Sirithattu/Shutterstock; 23BL, © Wojce/Shutterstock; 23BC, © Flonline/FLPA; 23BR, © David Fenwick.

Publisher: Kenn Goin

Senior Editor: Joyce Tavalacci

Creative Director: Spencer Brinker

Photo Researcher: Ruth Owen Books

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Lawrence, Ellen, 1967– author.

Title: Bloodworms and other wriggly beach dwellers / by Ellen Lawrence.

Description: New York, New York : Bearport Publishing, [2018] | Series: A day at the beach: animal life on the shore | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2017048987 (print) | LCCN 2017052928 (ebook) |

ISBN 9781684025022 (Ebook) | ISBN 9781684024445 (library)

Subjects: LCSH: Seashore animals—Juvenile literature. | Intertidal organisms—Juvenile literature. | Seashore ecology—Juvenile literature. | Beaches—Juvenile literature.

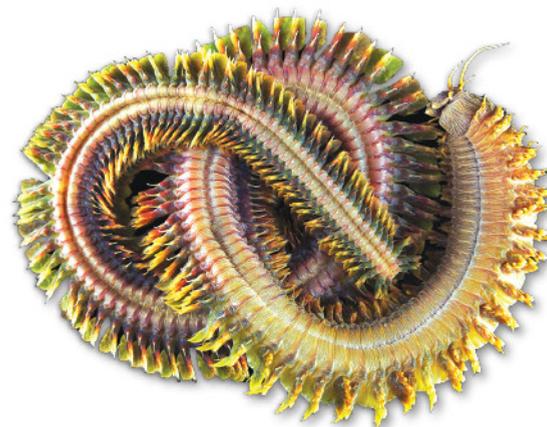
Classification: LCC QH95.7 (ebook) | LCC QH95.7 .L3586 2018 (print) | DDC 578.769/9—dc23

LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2017048987>

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For more information, write to Bearport Publishing Company, Inc., 45 West 21st Street, Suite 3B, New York, New York 10010. Printed in the United States of America.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



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Secret Beach Dwellers

At the seashore, seagulls soar in the sky and crabs crawl over sand.

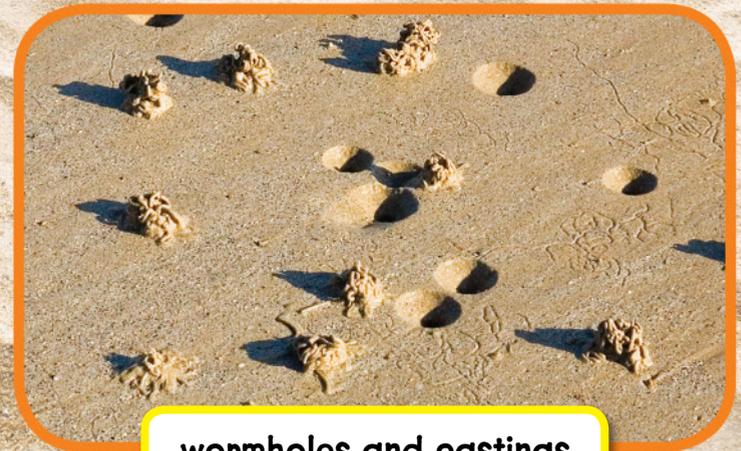
However, some seashore animals live secret lives.

These wriggly beach dwellers are **marine** worms that mostly stay hidden underground.

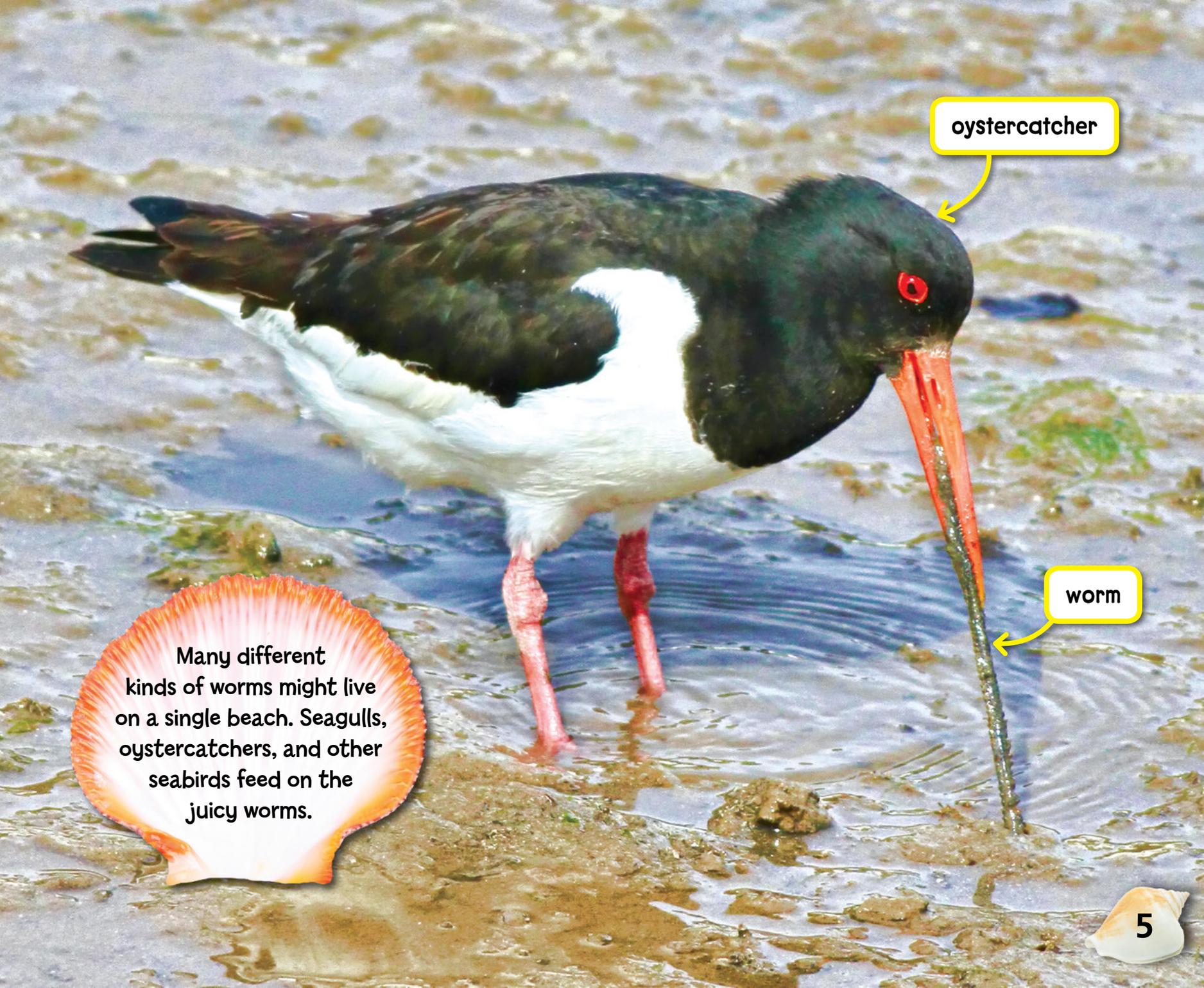
The only clues they leave behind are holes and **castings** in the muddy sand!



worm



wormholes and castings



oystercatcher

worm

Many different kinds of worms might live on a single beach. Seagulls, oystercatchers, and other seabirds feed on the juicy worms.

Going Hunting!

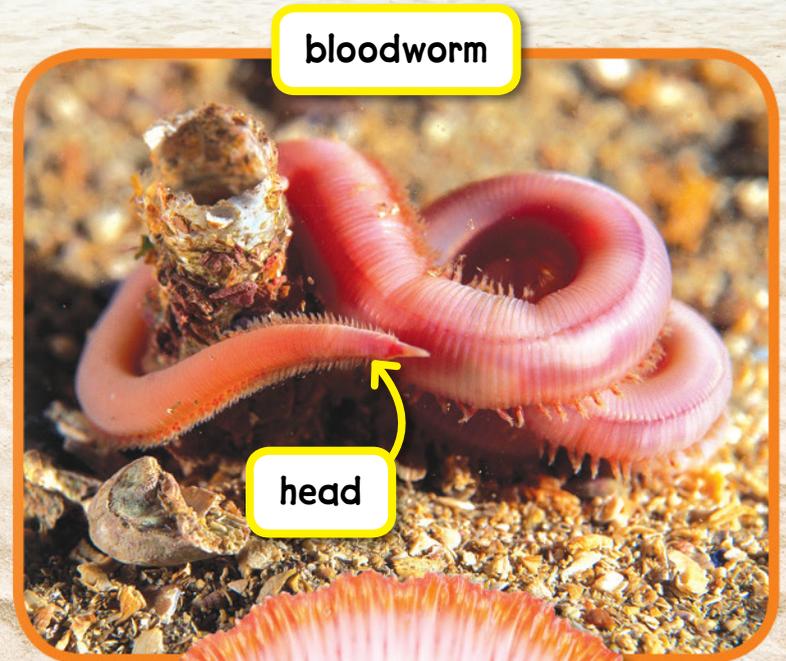
A fierce hunter called a bloodworm lives on many beaches.

This worm can grow to be more than 12 inches (30.5 cm) long!

It moves through the sand hunting for beach fleas and small **shellfish**.

Once the bloodworm finds a meal, it attacks.

It shoots an alien-like mouthpart called a proboscis (proh-BOS-uhss) out of its head!



A bloodworm gets its name from its reddish-pink color. The worm's skin, however, is actually clear. The red color comes from the worm's blood showing through its skin.

a bloodworm hunting

How do you think a bloodworm kills its prey?



proboscis