



SCUBA LUV DIVE REPORT

SOUTH MAUI

“CRITTER OF THE WEEK”

(808) 870-2738



CRITTER OF THE WEEK!

MOLE COWRY (*Cypraea talpa* Linnaeus)—This cowry’s handsome shell is jet black around the base and on the underside; it’s back is brown and banded in gold; it’s mantle is black and densely covered with blue-green spots. It is found in sheltered waters in depths of at least 20’, the largest individuals usually found in Hawaii! . Growing to about 3 1/2 inches, this little guy was cruising across the sand today with his mantle fully extended! Cowries are one of the few shells that have a mantle extending over it’s entire shell, keeping the surface smooth , shiney and beautiful. Most cowries are nocturnal. There are 200 species of cowries, 35 of which are known to be in the Hawaiian Islands!

DATE OF SIGHTING: FEBRUARY 26, 2012
AIR TEMPERATURE: 84 degrees
WATER TEMPERATURE: 76 degrees
VIZIBILITY: 100’ +

PHOTO (WITH MANTLE) BY : STEVE MADARAS

