

PUFFERFISH

Tetraodontidae (Bonaparte, 1832)

The most famous attribute of pufferfishes is to be able to 'puff' themselves up like a balloon when attacked, co-incidentally erecting sharp spines embedded in their skin.

Fish from *Torquigener Whitley, 1930* genus laboriously flap their fins as they swim along the seafloor, resulting in disrupted sediment and amazing circular patterns.

THEY BECAME ARTISTS TO IMPRESS THE FEMALES!

After these description, these animals don't seem so romantic, right?

But appearances are deceptive and there is something magic about one of these little fishes.

It takes about **seven to nine** days for the pufferfish to construct the circles.

12 cm long

2 m long

If things go well, the female will lay her eggs in the center of the circle, and then the males will fertilize those eggs externally.

Females base their decision about whether or not to mate with a male upon his construction skills, although the researchers still don't understand what it is, exactly, that females are looking for in their ideal circular pattern.

Anyway, we can all agree that, despite his appearance, this little artist deserve to be known as one of the most romantic animals!

