



Smithsonian Associates

Don't Be a Sucker: Sorting Fact from Fiction in Pop Culture Cephalopod Portrayals

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Monday, April 20, 2026 - 6:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. ET

'Morons' hold world's deadliest octopus with enough venom to kill 26

people: <https://metro.co.uk/2019/07/14/morons-hold-worlds-deadliest-octopus-enough-venom-kill-26-people-10284745/>

82-year-old Korean man has heart attack after choking on 'live octopus'

dish: <https://www.cnn.com/2023/10/25/asia/south-korea-sannakji-octopus-intl-hnk>

This octopus grew a ninth arm—which soon developed a mind of its

own: <https://www.science.org/content/article/octopus-grew-ninth-arm-which-soon-developed-mind-its-own>

Is Viral Photo of 96-Armed Octopus Real?: <https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/96-armed-octopus/>

Simplified octopus-inspired swimming robot with soft asymmetric arms can replicate swimming

patterns: <https://techxplore.com/news/2024-10-octopus-robot-soft-asymmetric-arms.html>

Spirobs Shape-Shifting Robot Moves Like an Octopus and Lifts 260x Its

Weight: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q2yYcIPaEVO>

Octopus look-alike is first robot that's self-powered, untethered, and entirely

soft: <https://cen.acs.org/articles/94/i35/Octopus-look-alike-first-robot.html>

Octopus suckers fix dentures in research first: <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/news/octopus-suckers-fix-dentures>

New material changes color and texture like an

octopus: <https://news.stanford.edu/stories/2026/01/flexible-material-changes-color-texture-camouflage-robotics-research>

Save the Nautilus: <https://savethenautilus.com/>

Defend the Deep: <https://defendthedeep.org/>