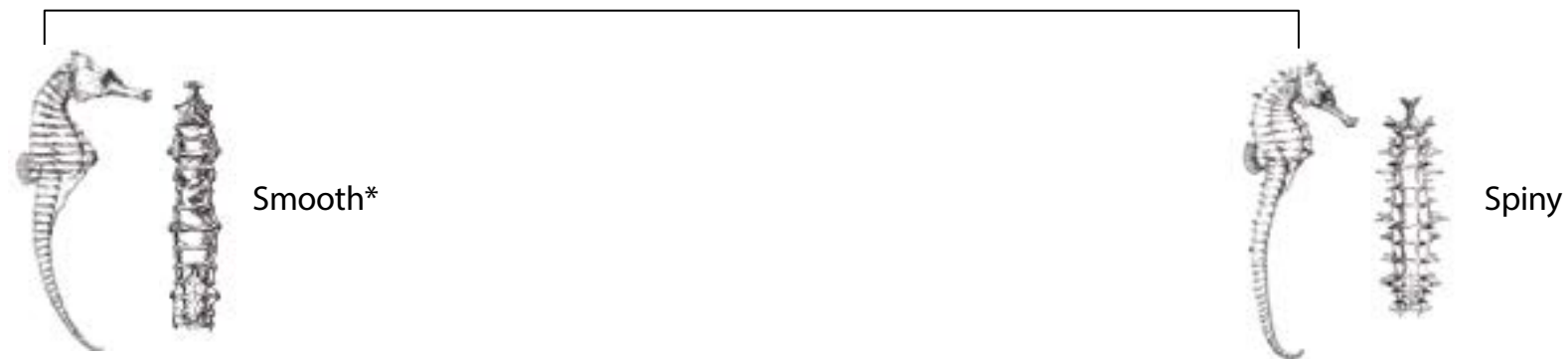
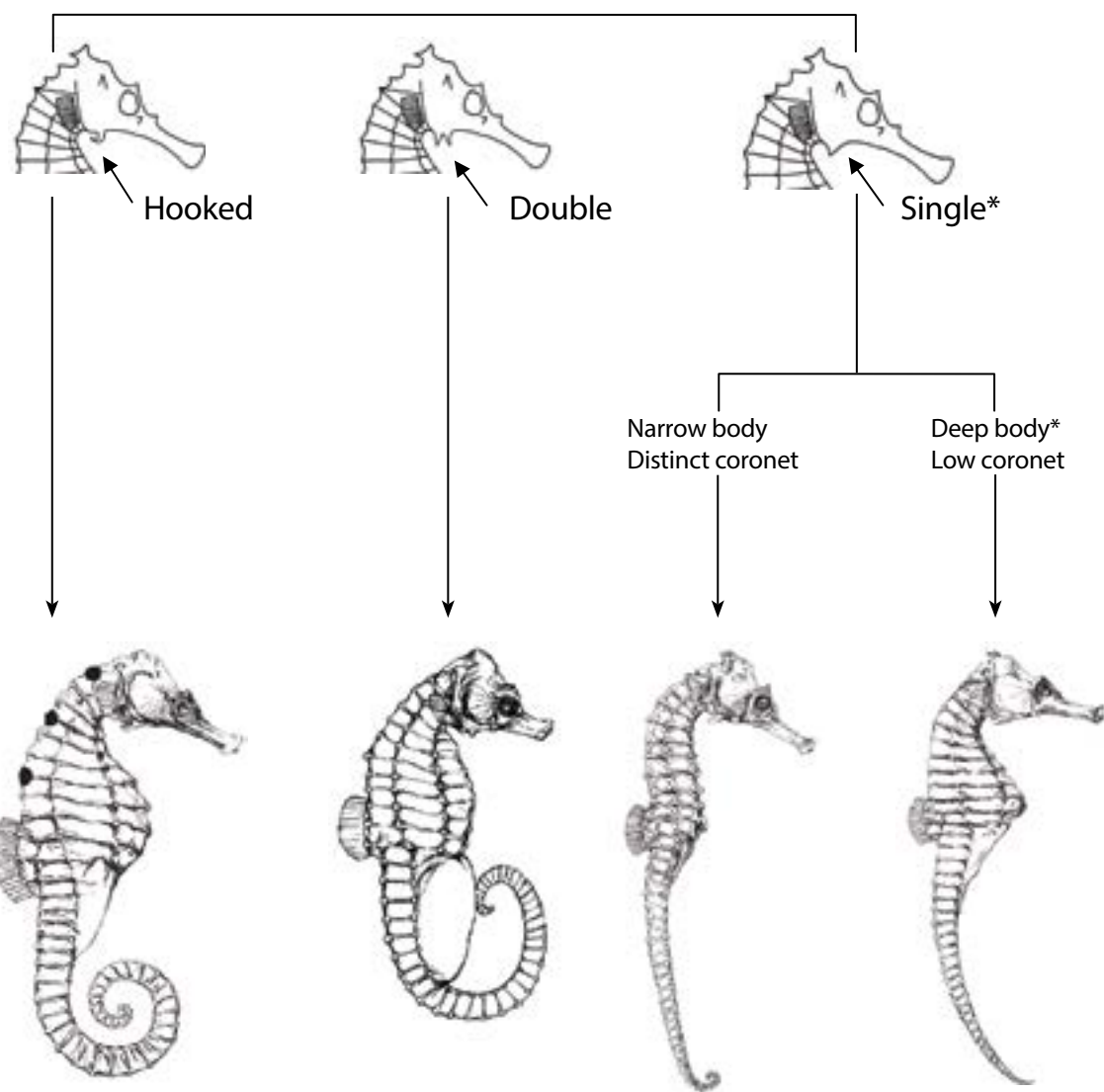


# identifying southeast asian seahorses (*Hippocampus* spp.) common in trade

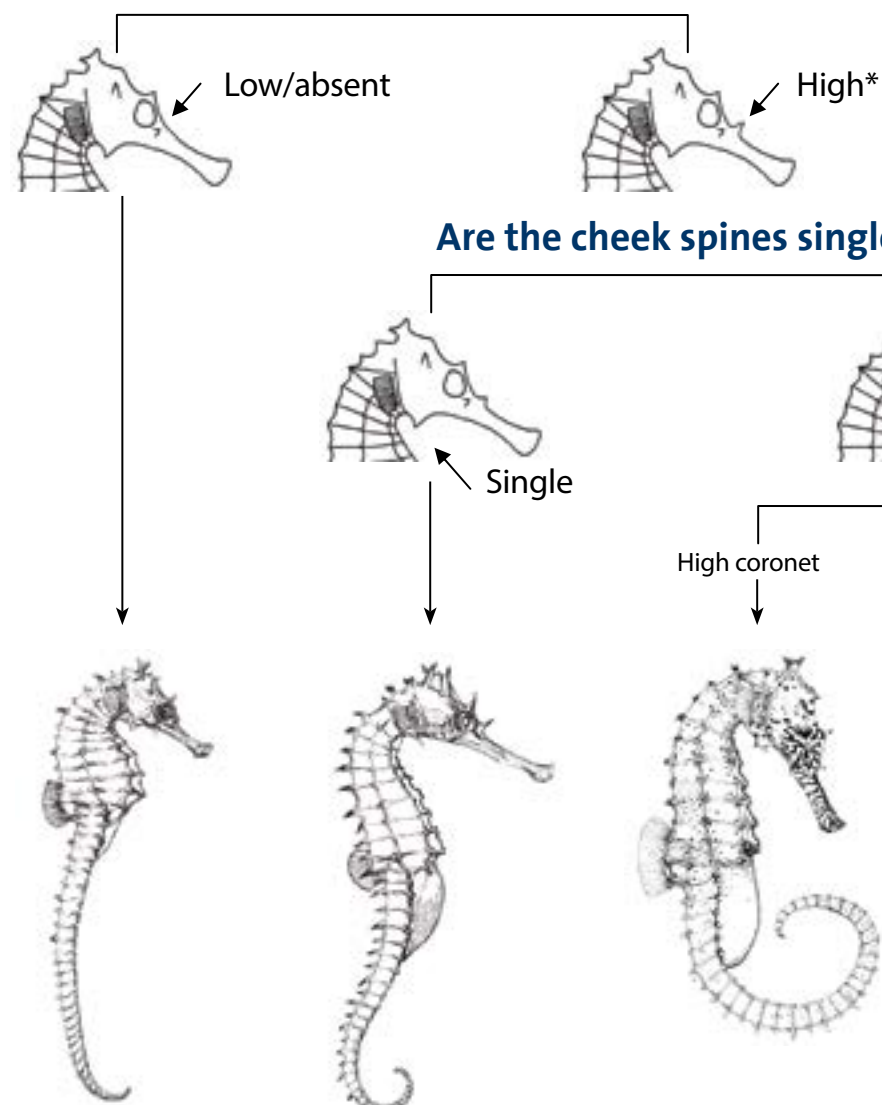
**Is the seahorse smooth or spiny?** note: If you are not certain, choose the option marked with a \*.



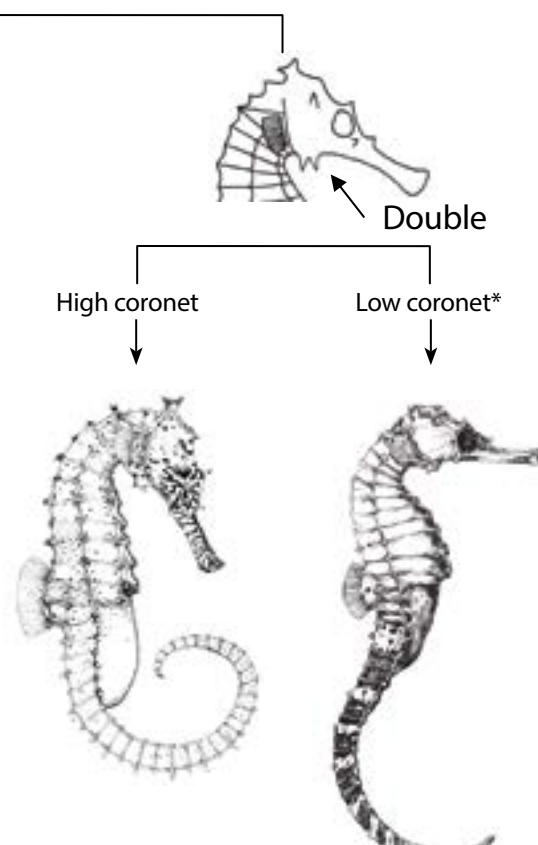
**Are the cheek spines hooked, double, or single?**



**Is the nose spine low/absent or high?**



**Are the cheek spines single or double?**



*H. trimaculatus*  
Three spots on back  
Low coronet  
Max. height 17cm

*H. mohnikei*  
Very long tail  
Short snout  
Max. height 8cm

*H. kelloggi*  
Chunky body rings  
Max. height 28cm

*H. kuda*  
Low/blunt spines  
Max. height 17cm

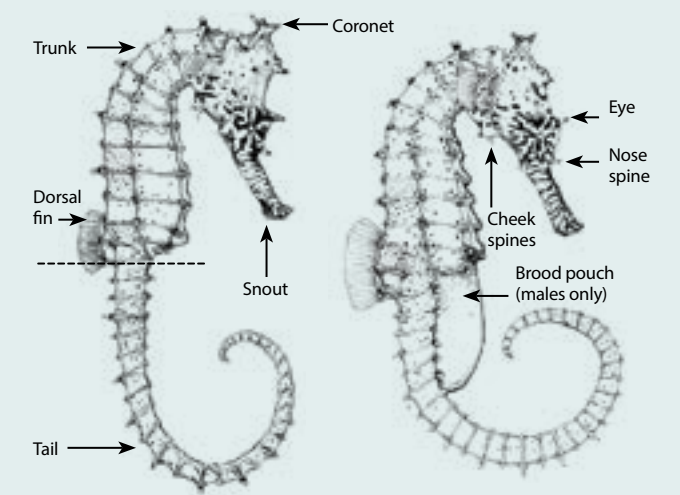
*H. spinosissimus*  
Single or double  
cheek spines  
Max. height 17cm

*H. histrix*  
Long snout  
Black tips on spines  
Max. height 17cm

*H. barbouri*  
Striped snout  
Prominent eye spine  
Max. height 15cm

*H. comes*  
Narrow head  
Striped tail  
Max. height 19cm

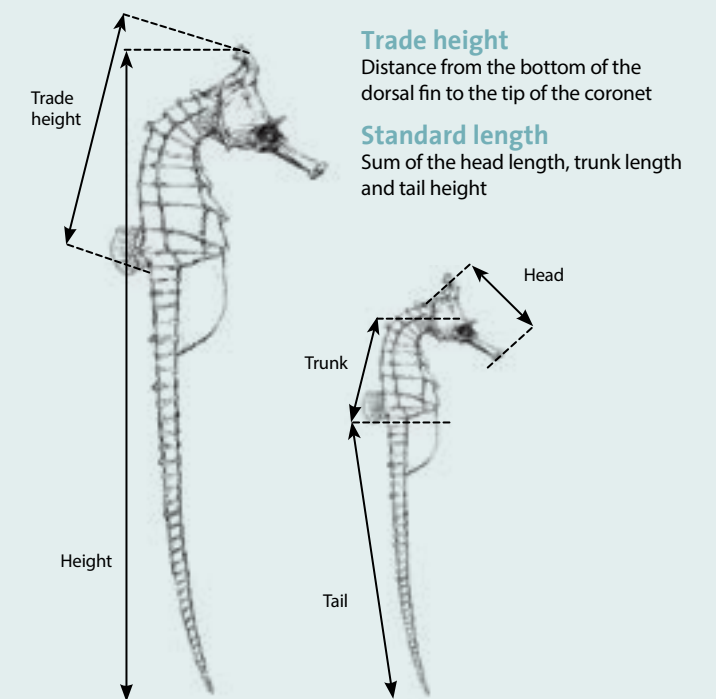
## seahorse morphology



**Female**  
In females, body does not extend past bottom of dorsal fin. If you are uncertain it is likely male.

**Male**  
Unless marked, all diagrams on this page are male seahorses.

## measuring seahorses



**Trade height**  
Distance from the bottom of the dorsal fin to the tip of the coronet

**Standard length**  
Sum of the head length, trunk length and tail height



All drawings © Laurence Richardson  
All data from Lourie et al. 2004. A guide to the identification of seahorses. Project Seahorse and TRAFFIC North America, Washington D.C., The University of British Columbia and World Wildlife Fund. This publication was funded by the European Union, through the CITES capacity-building project.

# smooth seahorses

# spiny seahorses

