

The Krill

This poem is a sea crab's story
of minor size but of major glory
Krill is its unpretentious name
so now let's learn about its fame.

Hardly two inches body size
many small arms near its eyes
designed to form a sieve and snatch
whatever makes a good krill's catch.

The lower legs produce the motion
a graceful drift throughout the ocean
and krill looks out for his desire
"algae" he's seeking to acquire.

Diatoms are what he really likes
a good meal! And without spikes.
However, other algae carry stings
way too much pain to him this brings!

Not his preferred diet blend
but itching, stitching, pinching, and
a lot of hurt. Oh misery!
Spitting it out you will see.

Whilst in his element, the sea, at night
krill can be seen emitting light.
Euphausia – light emitting crab – became
his second, yet well known name.

And even though it's very cold
krill grows up to seven years old.
Yet often he dies not so late
when whales become his final fate.

The baleen whales' huge open mouths just wait
for such a tasteful, nourishing bite
by sifting thousands of barrels of water until
they would swallow tons of Krill.

This truly is the only reason
the sea is teeming with life in the warm season
The world's largest mammal, the blue whale
comes for the summer, with its female.

Also the fellows with humps on their back
come, for they know of krill there's no lack.
The fin whales are among the greediest
In krill consumption they are the speediest.

And even the Minke whale would devour
thousands of pounds of krill in one hour.
The seals – it does not matter which breed –
they also love to eat krill, indeed!

A crab eater seal – as the name can tell –
does prey on the krill very well.
But even the big leopard seal
Frequently has antarctic krill as a meal.

The small penguins feed on – guess what!
Right! The krill one more time hits the spot.
The birds, flying or not, all that carries a feather
would feast on the krill when getting together.

Let's not forget the antarctic fish
for dinner, for lunch: it's krill they cherish.
Krill stands in the food chain at the central place
a nutrition that can truly amaze.

Fat, protein, even trace elements,
all this the krill's body richly contains.
When autumn comes, he will disappear
no longer the krill will be staying here.

He will move towards the ocean ground
in the dark deep he then could be found.

As winter has barely any food to offer
Krill's predators of hunger would suffer!
No. They'll rather swim home 'til next year
when krill will again – no doubt – be here.

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