A UNIVERSITY of Queensland researcher has found a potent mix of chemicals which acts like a cross between Chanel No.5 and Viagra... but only if you are a sea slug.

Scott Cummins, a postdoctoral fellow in the School of Integrative Biology, believes powerful sex attractants, or pheromones, help near-blind sea creatures find each other and stimulate them to mate. Normally alone, the slugs gather in their hundreds in summer to party.

“We found that sea slugs developed an ingenious and potent solution to finding a mate: they release a cocktail of small proteins as a pheromone message.”

Cummins has named the protein pheromones “attractin”, “enticin”, “temptin” and “seductin”.

“If we can understand how pheromones work in sea slugs, how the slugs detect them and how they influence slug behaviour, we may be able to enhance the management of similar marine animals in aquaculture,” he said. “We may also be able to develop powerful new tools to eliminate pest species by disrupting this form of communication.”

Look out Crown of Thorns starfish.

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