

SEA STINGERS-AND OTHER VENOMOUS AND POISONOUS MARINE INVERTEBRATES OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA pdf

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Article Updated 5 years ago *Physalia utriculus* Description Bluebottles have a conspicuous elongate blue float and a long blue tentacle. In *Physalia utriculus* the float rarely exceeds 10 cm with the tentacle less than 3 metres. The bluebottle is very similar to the large Pacific Man-of-War which has floats to 15 cm in length and multiple fishing tentacles which can extend to 10 metres in large animals. Biology These complex floating colonies consist of four different types of polyps. The float that lies horizontally on the sea surface is a single individual that supports the polyps that reproduce, the polyps that digest the food, and the polyps that capture the prey. The single main fishing tentacle that hangs beneath the colony has a frilled and beaded appearance. Each bead consists of hundreds of nematocysts stinging capsules. Distribution Fleets of bluebottles are often carried by warm currents to more temperate waters. In southern Western Australia they are blown onshore and can be seen on beaches in autumn and winter, less often in summer. They are frequently seen on Perth beaches. Diet Bluebottles feed mostly on larval fish and small crustaceans such as copepods and amphipods. Stings *Physalia utriculus* stings are mild, producing localised pain and swelling. Symptoms Immediate intense local pain which can last for an hour or more. The skin may be marked with a raised red line or small bead-like weals. Prevention Avoid swimming when bluebottles have been washed onto the beach as they are likely to still be in the ocean. The tentacles frequently break off in rough water and can sting. Do not touch dead animals as the venom remains active, and nematocysts can still fire long after the animals are dead and dried. Wear protective clothing such as a lycra top, skivvy or stinger suit. First Aid Do not treat with vinegar. Remove any tentacles from the skin using tweezers or a gloved hand. Apply cold packs, and possibly a pain relieving cream, to the affected area for pain relief. This may need to be repeated for some weeks if the itchiness persists. *Field Guide to Sea Stingers and other venomous and poisonous marine invertebrates of Western Australia.* A small colony of *Physalia utriculus* showing the horizontal float with the polyps beneath. Note the main tentacle is long, frilled and beaded in appearance.

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2: Bluebottle factsheet | Western Australian Museum

Additional Physical Format: Print version: Marsh, Loiset M. Sea stingers--and other venomous and poisonous marine invertebrates of Western Australia.

To view a copy of this license, visit <http://www.wa.gov.au>. In north-western Australia, tow video and epibenthic sled surveys discovered large numbers of box jellyfish (Chironex fleckeri) in a 100 m tow or 0. This is the first record of a population of box jellyfish closely associated with the benthos at such depths. Chironex were not widespread, occurring only in 2 of 33 tow videos and 3 of 41 epibenthic sleds spread over km². All Chironex filmed or captured were on low to medium relief reefs with rich filter feeder communities. The importance of the reef habitat to Chironex remains unclear. Being associated with filter feeder communities might represent a hazard, and other studies have shown C. Most of our observations were made during the period of lowest tidal current flow in the morning. This may represent a period favourable for active hunting for prey close to the seabed. Cubozoans or box jellyfish include members of the highly venomous genus Chironex and have been responsible for numerous fatalities in tropical and subtropical coastal regions of the world. The most notorious of these is Chironex fleckeri, which has been responsible for 77 deaths in Australia alone 1, 2. Despite their notoriety, many aspects of the behaviour and ecology of Chironex remain a mystery, and this is true for cubozoan jellyfish in general 5. Most observations of Chironex have been made in shallow coastal waters where they are a hazard for swimmers, and where known, their sessile polyp stage occurs in mangrove creeks and the medusa stage enables them to spread among shallow coastal areas 6, 7. In comparison, observations of Chironex in deeper shelf waters have hitherto been limited to reports of catches by prawn trawlers 7 without any detail on where in the water column the medusae entered the fishing nets. Extensive surveys 8 on the Great Barrier Reef did not find any evidence of C. Earlier 47 offshore surveys over 2 years taking surface and subsurface plankton samples cubic meters captured only 8 C. However, other species of box jellyfish have been recorded from deepwater. The carybdeid Alatina alata was recorded to m 9 indicating that cubozoans can occur across a wide range of depths. The opportunity to observe Chironex on deep coastal reefs arose during work for a large scale survey using an underwater towed video camera and epibenthic sled to characterise the sea bed habitats and biodiversity of Camden Sound, a remote, previously unsurveyed location in the Kimberley region of north-western Australia. During the survey of March, one of the routine video stations discovered large numbers of box jellyfish close to the seabed in over 40 m of water. Epi-benthic sleds carried out at stations nearby also caught box jellyfish. Results Box jellyfish observed and captured in this study could not positively be identified as Chironex fleckeri. There is reported to be a species of Chironex from the Kimberley region of Australia that remains undescribed We recorded box jellyfish at just five of the 74 sites sampled across Camden Sound in an area of approximately km² Fig. Only two video transects 6. At tow video station Fig. The jellyfish were not clumped; the 64 observed were distributed along the entire video tow with between zero and four mean 1. Box jellyfish were caught in just three sleds 6.

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3: South Western Stinger Factsheet | Western Australian Museum

Field guide to sea stingers and other venomous and poisonous marine invertebrates of Western Australia / Loiset M. Marsh and Shirley M. Slack-Smith ; with medical contributions by Dr. Desmond L. Gurry Western Australian Museum Welshpool, W.A

The tentacles can extend to 20 cm, but more commonly are 8 cm long. The bell is shaped like a box with single tentacles hanging from each of the four bottom corners. They are more distinctive than the bell, which is almost transparent. Often the shadows cast by the jelly onto the sand beneath it are more obvious than the actual animals. The South Western Stinger is related to the deadly box jelly, *Chironex fleckeri* that is found in our north western waters, and the north and north east seas of Australia as far south as Gladstone, Queensland. Breeding The South Western Stinger is a cubomedusae. These types of animals have tiny non motile polyps that bud off new polyps asexually. The small polyps then metamorphose into sea jellies which are mature and are abundant in summer. Habitat South Western Stingers occur in quiet bays, particularly over sand. They may swim near the surface even in bright sunlight unless the sea is rough. Distribution *Carybdea xaymacana* and *C.* They are also found in other parts of the world. These small jellies were previously thought to belong to the species *C.* Diet This jellies move toward the surface at night to feed on zooplankton and small pelagic organisms. They are attracted to lights near wharves and jetties in their search for food. Stings Their sting is mild to severe. Symptoms After a sharp, stinging sensation the pain may increase or lessen within 5 minutes. Initially, the skin is marked with a red line. The redness spreads, becomes blotchy, and a weal may develop. The effects may disappear in minutes or remain painful for hours on sensitive skin. This may be followed by a persistent itch, and a brown line may remain for several weeks. Prevention Wear protective clothing such as a lycra top, skivvy or stinger suit. Do not swim in areas where there are large numbers of jellies, and be more observant in summer. Wear a swimsuit that does not allow easy entry of a stinger at the front or back. First Aid Liberally pour vinegar over the affected area. This treatment prevents unfired stinging cells from causing additional stinging. Remove any tentacles from the skin using tweezers or a gloved hand. Apply cold pack, and possibly a pain relieving cream, to the affected area for pain relief. This may need to be repeated for some weeks if the itchiness persists. Field Guide to Sea Stingers and other venomous and poisonous marine invertebrates of Western Australia. An individual of *C.*

4: Phlyctenactis tuberculosa - Wikipedia

Sea stingers: and other venomous and poisonous marine invertebrates of Western Australia / by Loiset M. Marsh, Shirley M. Slack-Smith ; with medical contributions by Desmond L. Gurry Western Australian Museum Perth, W.A

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