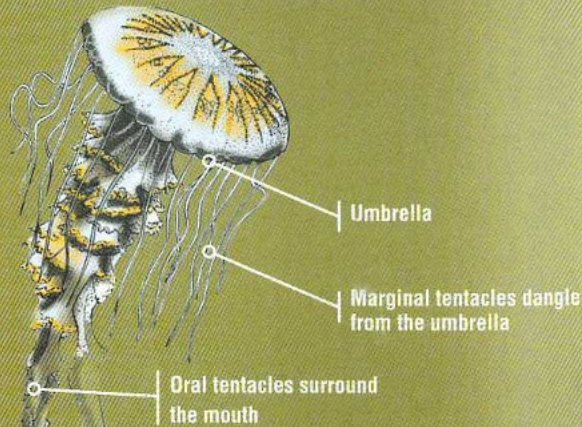


What are they like?

- Jellyfish consists of almost ninety-five percent water as a result of the composition of the jelly that forms its body, which provides them with an almost transparent, gelatinous appearance. Their density is similar to that of water and because of that they can easily keep themselves suspended in it.
- Their body is soft, with no internal or external skeleton
- The bodies among the different species may range in diameter from microscopic to up to a meter.
- Their body structure is really simple, with an internal cavity where nutrients are absorbed, and an opening located in the centre of the under surface which serves both as mouth and anus.



- **Tentacles are retractile and very long. When they are fully extended they act as an almost invisible spider web.**
- When they happen to touch anything, the cnidocyte cells trigger a filament that injects a stinging or paralyzing substance on the victim. Jellyfish have thousands of those cells which will remain active even if the medusa is dead within the water or on the sand.
- Jellyfish accomplish movement through contraction-pulsations of their bell-like body. This movement is not very powerful and they are also carried horizontally by waves and currents.

Where do they live?

- They can be found in all the world seas and oceans and have been there for millions of years under any condition of temperature or depth.
- They live at sea far away from the land, but during the spring and the summer seasons they are usually pushed towards the shoreline by the sea currents and the inward winds.
- In case they get to the coast, they usually die.



Why should we pay attention to them?

- The reason lies in their stinging capacity both within the water and on the sand and in the injuries they can provoke on us.
- Because, even though their presence is more than natural, their numbers and frequency of appearance have alarmingly increased. The consequences their presence may have in bathers and tourists have become a great concern.



THE CAUSES OF THIS GROWING NUMBERS ARE TO BE FOUND IN

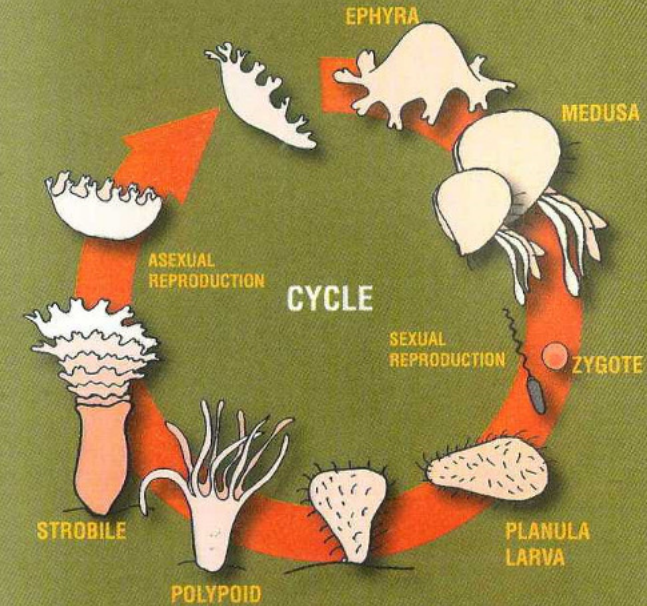
- **The disappearance and dwindling numbers of their natural predators (turtles, tuna fish, swordfish, moonfish...).** "Over fishing".
- **The increase in the number of nutrients in the water.** "Sea contamination".
- **The increase in the water temperature.** "Climate change".

JELLYFISH, JELLIES, SEA JELLIES, GELATINOUS ZOOPLANKTON, MEDUSOZOA, MEDUSAE

WHAT ARE THEY?



They are free-swimming members of the phylum of the cnidaria, from Greek word Cnida, which means "nettle". This name makes reference to their capacity to provoke nettlerash or hives thanks to the presence, all over their bodies, of specialized stinging cells called cnidocytes. These cells are used by the jellyfish to defend themselves and to get their food.



JELLYFISH UNDERGO A COMPLICATED LIFE CYCLE. WHAT WE KNOW AS MEDUSA IS JUST ONE OF THEIR TWO DISTINCT LIFE HISTORY STAGES (BODY FORMS). THE PRESENCE OR ABSENCE OF THESE STAGES AND ITS LENGTH MAY VARY FROM ONE SPECIES TO ANOTHER.

JELLYFISH AT THE BALEARIC SEAS

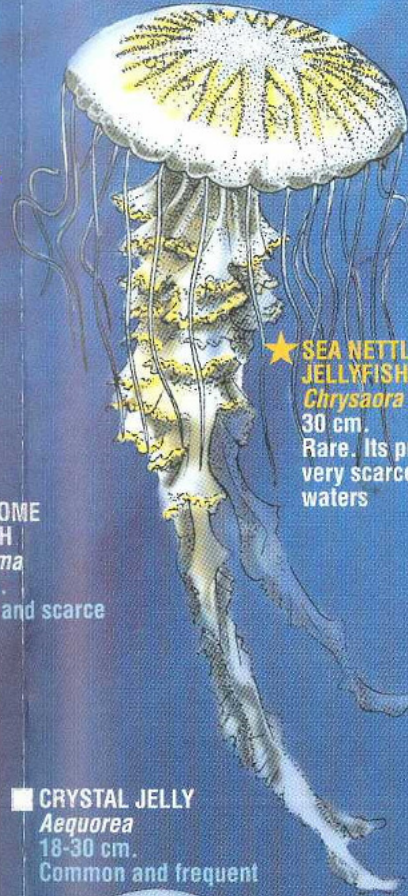


★ **PORTUGUESE MAN-OF-WAR JELLYFISH**
Physalia
12 cm.
Very occasional appearance

■ **BY-THE-WIND-SAILOR JELLYFISH**
Velella
6 cm.
Common and frequent

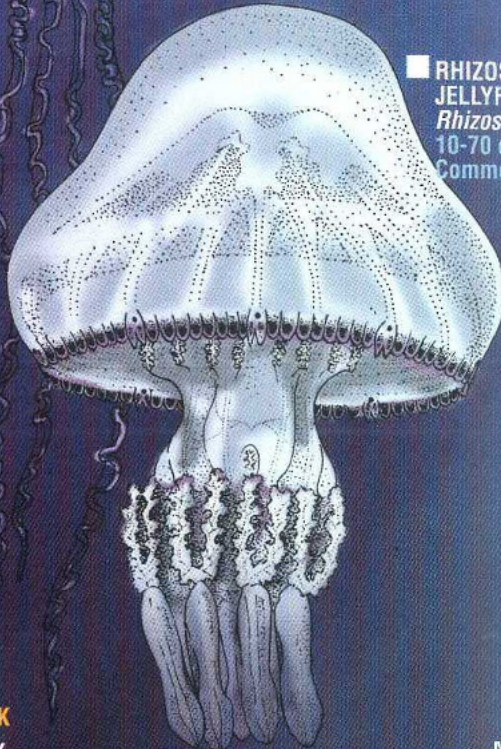


★ **SPARKLING OLINDIAS JELLYFISH**
Olindias
4-6 cm.
Common and frequent

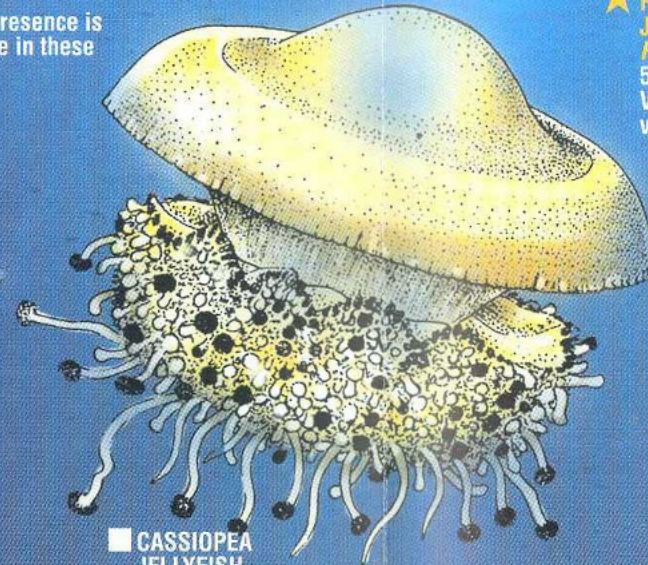


★ **SEA NETTLE JELLYFISH**
Chrysaora
30 cm.
Rare. Its presence is very scarce in these waters

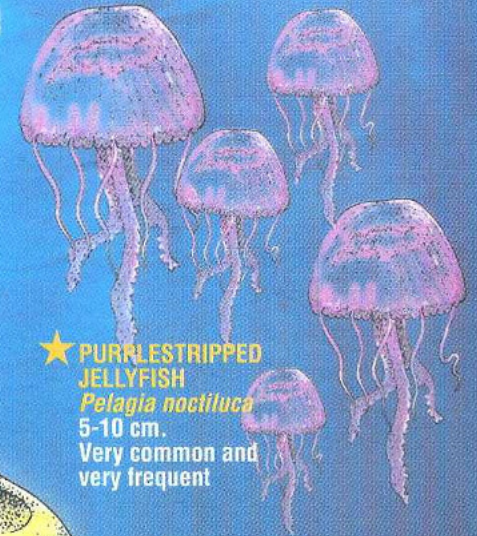
■ **RHIZOSTOME JELLYFISH**
Rhizostoma
10-70 cm.
Common and scarce



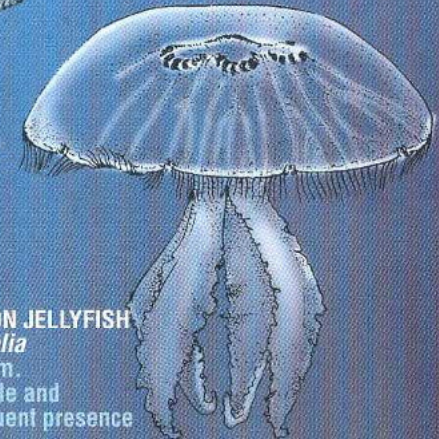
■ **CRYSTAL JELLY**
Aequorea
18-30 cm.
Common and frequent



■ **CASSIOPEA JELLYFISH**
Cotylorhiza
20-35 cm.
Very common and very frequent



★ **PURPLE-STRIPPED JELLYFISH**
Pelagia noctiluca
5-10 cm.
Very common and very frequent



■ **MOON JELLYFISH**
Aurelia
18 cm.
Ample and frequent presence

★ **HIGH RISK**
■ **LOW RISK**

More than 4000 species of jellyfish have been listed so far. Around 300 of them can be found at the Mediterranean Sea. Around the Balearic Islands, only a few of them can be considered to have a frequent appearance.