

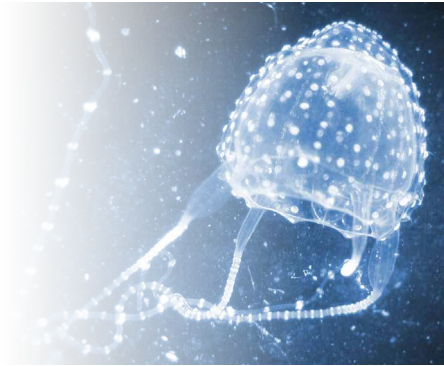
Irukandji jellyfish

A number of species of Irukandji jellyfish are currently known. The Irukandji jellyfish is a small jellyfish approximately two centimetres in diameter, making it difficult for swimmers to notice in the water. Irukandji jellyfish are most likely found in tropical Australian waters, from Bundaberg in Queensland to Geraldton in Western Australia, from November to May, though incidents of Irukandji Syndrome in Far North Queensland have been recorded for all months of the year.

Signs and symptoms of Irukandji jellyfish stings

The symptoms of an Irukandji jellyfish sting are not immediate and may appear 5 to 45 minutes after the initial sting. Signs and symptoms can include:

- severe backache or headache
- shooting pains in their muscles, chest and abdomen
- nausea
- anxiety
- restlessness
- vomiting
- breathing difficulties.



Management of Irukandji jellyfish stings

- carefully remove the casualty from the water
- avoid rubbing the sting area
- immediately douse the sting area with vinegar for at least 30 seconds
- if vinegar is not available, carefully remove tentacles off skin and rinse well with seawater
- call Triple Zero (000) for an ambulance immediately
- regularly monitor and record the casualty's pulse, breathing and conscious level
- begin resuscitation if necessary.

For further information on the Irukandji jellyfish, visit www.marinestingers.com.au

Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) encourages you to be prepared for an emergency. Enrol in a QAS first aid course to learn vital life-saving first aid skills.

**Enquire online at www.ambulance.qld.gov.au
or call **13 QGOV (13 74 68)****