



marinestingers

chironex

Distribution

Shallow, tropical Australian waters north of Agnes Water Queensland, all Northern Territory waters and Western Australia south to Exmouth. Stings from *Chironex* Box Jellyfish have been recorded predominantly in coastal areas.

Other common names

Box Jellyfish, Sea Wasp

Size and appearance

A large but almost transparent jellyfish with a box shaped bell (with 4 corners) up to 30 centimetres in diameter. Up to 15 ribbon-like tentacles arise from each of the four corners (up to 60 tentacles in total). These may contract to about 10 centimetres or may extend up to 3 metres in length.

Symptoms and signs

Its sting causes severe burning skin pain, often with tentacles remaining on the stung area. Severe stings may cause the victim to stop breathing or their heart to stop.

First aid

1.	Call for help	Dial 000 for an Ambulance.
2.	Emergency care	CPR if needed.
3.	Treat the sting	Pour vinegar onto sting.
4.	Seek medical aid	Transport to hospital.

Did you know?

- *Chironex fleckeri* is widely regarded as the world's most venomous animal.
- A box jellyfish can kill an adult human in 2-3 minutes with only 3-5 metre of tentacles or a child with as little as 1.2 metres of tentacles.
- At least 70 fatalities due to box jellyfish stings have been recorded in Australian waters since 1884.
- *Chironex Fleckeri* becomes deadly when the bell reaches 8-10cm in size, but continues to grow to over 30cm.



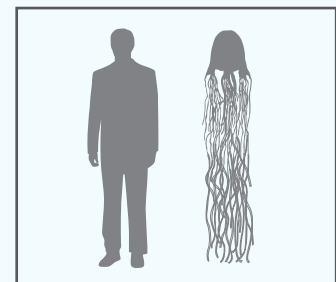
Chironex fleckeri



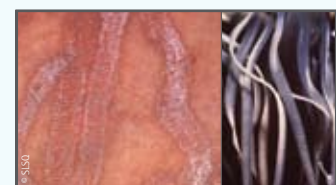
Distribution in Australian waters



Severe *Chironex* sting



Size relative to human



Close up of *Chironex* sting showing the correlation between marks & tentacles.



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