



# marinestingers

## pelagia

### Distributions

Common in the Mediterranean has been less common in Australian waters. Occasionally large swarms invade the Sydney region.

### Common names

Little Mauve Stinger

### Size and appearance

A small mushroom-shaped body from 2-6 centimetres in diameter. Unlike most jellyfish, the bell is covered with numerous warty lumps containing nematocysts (stinging cells). The bell is usually pink or mauve with 8 pale brown tentacles 10-30 centimetres in length.

### First aid

- Remove any adhering tentacles.
- Wash area with sea water (not freshwater).
- Apply cold packs for 10 minutes.
- Re-apply if skin pain persists.
- Send for medical aid if symptoms persist or worsen.

### Did you know?

- It is currently unclear whether the Australian *Pelagia* is the same species as the Mediterranean form, this is currently being studied.
- The Mediterranean *Pelagia* is highly bioluminescent when stimulated at night.
- The Australian form was responsible for a life-threatening sting in the 1980s, causing the wife of the Greek President to have an anaphylactic reaction (allergic shock).



*Pelagia noctiluca*



Distribution in Australian waters



*Pelagia* sting



Size relative to human



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