

marine stingers

Irukandji

Distribution

Tropical Australian waters north of southern Fraser Island (Queensland), Northern Territory waters and Western Australia south to Exmouth.

Different species may occur in coastal areas and on the reefs and islands; at times they may occur in large numbers close to shore.

Irukandji stings are occasionally reported in subtropical and temperate regions of the world, including Moreton Bay and Fraser Island.

Irukandji jellyfish are a subset of the carybdeid jellyfish.

Size and appearance

Small transparent box jellyfish, 1-2cm in diameter, usually not seen. Some may be up to 10cm long.

Symptoms and signs

Irukandji jellyfish cause an initial minor skin sting followed 5-40 minutes later by severe generalised muscular pain, headache, vomiting and sweating. The sting from some species can cause very high blood pressure or have effects on the heart which may be life threatening. These symptoms are sometimes referred to as Irukandji Syndrome.

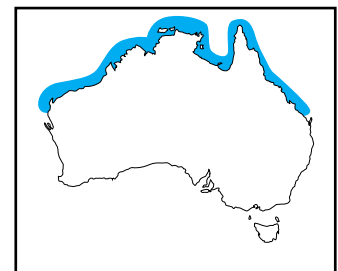
First aid

Because the symptoms of Irukandji Syndrome may take time to appear after the sting, all tropical jellyfish stings should be doused with vinegar and the casualty to remain out of the water, in a safe location with someone to monitor them for 45 minutes, as the casualty may appear stable initially.

1. Remove casualty from water if safe to do so
2. DRSABCD
3. Call for help - dial triple zero (000) for an ambulance
4. Promptly administer CPR if required
5. Treat the sting - douse the area liberally with vinegar for at least 30 seconds
6. Monitor the casualty and seek lifesaver/lifeguard assistance if available



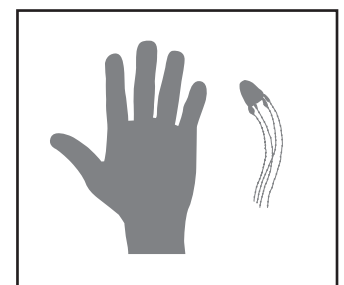
Irukandji



Distribution in Australian waters



Irukandji sting showing localised sweating



Size relative to human

For more information, visit marinestingers.com.au

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