

# marine stingers

## Morbakka

### Distribution

Tropical Australian waters, all Queensland and northern New South Wales coasts, often an open water jellyfish. Sub-species are more common at Mackay, Moreton Bay and northern NSW.

### Common names

Fire Jelly, Moreton Bay Stinger

### Size and appearance

Large transparent box-shaped bell with one tentacle in each corner. The bell can be 6-18cm wide with 4 thick, ribbon-shaped tentacles that may be up to 1m long.

### Recognition

Since it is usually difficult to recognise which species of jellyfish has caused a sting, pain management is based on the risk of serious stings in known geographical distribution of dangerous species. Jellyfish able to cause life threatening stings primarily occur along the tropical coastline of Australia, from Bundaberg (Queensland), northwards across the northern coastline and down to Geraldton, Western Australia. *Morbakka* may give mild Irukandji Syndrome but stings usually result in pain only.

### First aid

#### Tropical Australia - North of Agnes Water

1. Remove casualty from water if safe to do so
2. DRSABCD
3. If casualty has more than one localised single sting or looks/feels unwell, call triple zero (000) and seek assistance from a lifesaver/lifeguard if available
4. Assess casualty and commence CPR if necessary
5. Liberally douse stung area with vinegar for 30 seconds to neutralise invisible stinging cells
6. If vinegar is unavailable, rinse the sting well with seawater
7. Apply cold pack or ice in dry plastic bag for pain relief. Do not apply freshwater directly onto the sting as it may discharge nematocysts
8. Casualty may appear stable but experience Irukandji Syndrome - it is usually only the pain that is significant. Monitor for 45 minutes

#### Non-tropical - South of Agnes Water

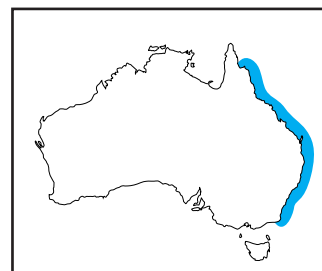
1. Do not allow rubbing of sting area
2. Rinse well with sea water
3. Place stung area in hot water (no hotter than the rescuer can comfortably tolerate) for 20 minutes
4. If local pain is unrelieved by heat or if hot water is not available, apply cold pack or ice in a dry plastic bag
5. If pain persists, is generalised or if the sting area is large or involves sensitive areas (e.g the eyes), dial triple zero (000) and seek assistance from lifesavers/lifeguards if available

### Did you know?

The name *Morbakka* is derived from 'Moreton Bay Carybdeid' because it was originally discovered in Moreton Bay.



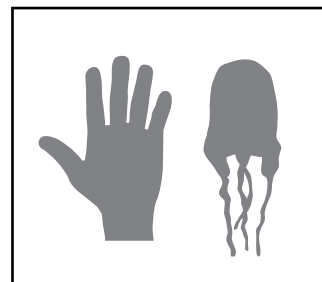
Morbakka



Distribution in Australian waters



Morbakka sting



Size relative to human

For more information, visit [marinestingers.com.au](http://marinestingers.com.au)

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