

Special Issue

Ecology, Evolution, and Systematics of Medusozoa (Aka Jellyfish)

Message from the Guest Editors

Over two thousand species have been described in the Cnidaria subphylum Medusozoa (aka jellyfish). Remarkably, despite lacking a brain, some jellyfish have evolved the ability to kill a human in minutes, leading to their reputation as a nuisance to beachgoers. This perception is ironic because even in all their splendor, intrigue, and diversity of body form, most medusozoans never exhibit a free-swimming medusae stage during their life history. Having diverged over 600 mya and adapted to a plethora of aquatic habitats worldwide, pest or not, jellyfish are here to stay. In their defense, jellyfish are a crucial component of our oceans (and some freshwater environments), and are essential to the commercial fisheries and biomedical industries. Therefore, we must find a way to coexist with these ancient marine organisms. We welcome original research articles, reviews, commentaries, data papers, and the like to address the topic of the ecology, evolution, and systematics of Medusozoans (Jellyfish).

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Animals is an on-line open access journal that was first published in 2011. *Animals* adheres to rigorous peerreview and editorial processes and publishes only high quality manuscripts that address important issues in the many varied disciplines that involve animals, with a focus on animal science, animal welfare and animal ethics. *Animals* is covered in the Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE) in Web of Science, with the latest Impact Factor: 2.7 (2024, ranks 15/86 (Q1) in 'Agriculture, Dairy & Animal Science'; 21/170 (Q1) in 'Veterinary Sciences'), 5-Year Impact Factor: 3.2.

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