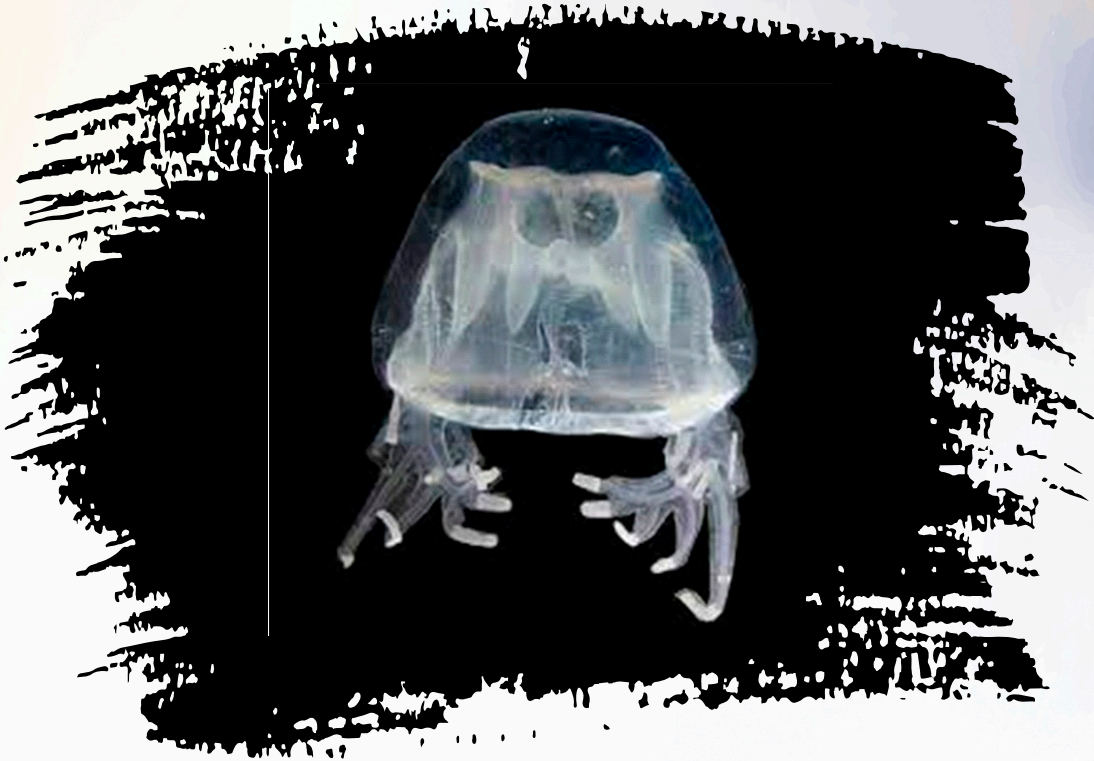


FAUNA OF INDIA CHECKLIST

JULY, 2024

ONLINE VERSION 1.0



CNIDARIA: CUBOZOA

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Comments on the checklist:

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ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA
Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

CNIDARIA: CUBOZOA

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Introduction: Class Cubozoa under the Phylum Cnidaria is commonly known as box jellyfish. This faunal group is characterized by complex eyes, powerful venom, strong swimming and orientation behaviour. Mostly, cubozoans are venomous in nature. These are tropical jellyfishes; however, a few are found beyond the tropical latitude. These are having polymorphic life like most of other cnidarians.

Global diversity: Only 49 species under two orders, eight families and 18 genera are described world-wide.

Diversity in India: Six species are reported from Indian waters representing both the orders and four families.

Diversity in States: Presented in table 1.

Table 1: Cubozoa of India, State-wise distribution

Sl. No.	State/ Union Territory	No. of Species
1.	Andhra Pradesh	01
2.	Gujarat	01
3.	Kerala	01
4.	Odisha	02
5.	Tamil Nadu	05
6.	West Bengal	01
	Total number of species	06

Endemism: No endemism has been recorded from India.

Habitat: Cubozoa are found from the surface water to the greater depth of oceans. Cubozoans have both sessile polyp form and planktonic medusoid form. Polyps are found on the ocean floor.

Ecological Significance: Cubozoans are voracious predators of invertebrates and vertebrates e.g. fishes. However, primary of this faunal group is planktonic crustaceans (Kingsford and Mooney, 2014).

Human Significance: Toxins of few species i.e., *Chironex fleckeri* and *Chironex yamaguchi* can be fatal to human also. Jellyfishes are providing regulating and supporting services in ecosystem.

Threatened species: All six species reported from India are classified under Not Evaluated category of IUCN Red List.

Protected Species as per WPA: Cubozoans are not listed under any schedules of Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Species under CITES: There is no species enlisted under the CITES Appendices.

Invasive alien species: No Cubozoa species is reported from India as an invasive one.

Gap areas: Research on cubozoans is scanty and only taxonomic status of six cubozoans is known from Indian coasts. Comprehensive studies are required to explore the faunal group from the coasts of India.

Systematic list: Species list cited below (Table 2).

Table 2: Cubozoans of India

Sl. No.	Species
1.	<i>Alatina grandis</i> (Agassiz & Mayer, 1902)
2.	<i>Alatinamadraspatana</i> (Menon, 1930)
3.	<i>Tamoya gargantua</i> Haeckel, 1880
4.	<i>Tripedaliacystophora</i> Conant, 1897
5.	<i>Chiropsoidesbuitendijki</i> (van der Horst, 1907)
6.	<i>Chiropsalmusquadrumanus</i> (F. Muller, 1859)

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