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# ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA

Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

## CNIDARIA: SCYPHOZOA

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# FAUNA OF INDIA CHECKLIST



# CNIDARIA: SCYPHOZOA

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**Introduction:** Jellyfish is the common name for the free-swimming form of gelatinous animals with umbrella-shaped bells and trailing tentacles, especially the medusa phase of cnidarians. Although the term is occasionally extended to ctenophores, within cnidarians, the scyphozoans are referred to as 'true jellyfish', and like other cnidarians, their bodies are constructed from two germ layers and their tentacles are armed with nematocysts with venom for capturing prey and/or defending against predators. They are not active

swimmers, movement of animals operated by the bell can pulsate to provide propulsion for highly efficient locomotion and submissively carried out by ocean currents, tides and waves.

**Global diversity:** The class represents a total of 244 described species across the world's oceans.

**Diversity in India:** In India, 44 species belonging to 23 genera and 16 families are recorded.

**Diversity in States:** Presented in table 1.

**Table 1:** Scyphozoa of India, State-wise distribution

Sl. No.	State / Union Territory	No. of Species
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1
2.	Gujarat	9
3.	Goa	2
4.	Karnataka	1
5.	Kerala	14
6.	Maharashtra	4
7.	Odisha	9
8.	Tamil Nadu	36
9.	West Benga	16
10.	Andaman & Nicobar	8
11.	Lakshadweep	7
12.	Puducherry	3
13.	State Unknown	2
	<b>Total number of species</b>	<b>44</b>



**Endemism:** No endemism has been reported from India.

**Habitat:** They are found in all oceanic and brackish waters environment from shallow coastal region to abyssal region of about 5000 m.

**Ecological Significance:** They are important trophic link coupling benthic and pelagic primary production to higher-level predators and humans, and are important carbon exporters from nearshore to neritic and offshore waters.

**Human Significance:** Jellyfishes have significance role in various aspects such as pets in marine aquarium, effector fertilisers, jellyfish mucus can reduce and save water bodies from microplastic pollution. Jellyfish protein (Mucin) with the property to retain moisture is used as artificial tears, and also used in space research as an experimental specimen to observe the developmental stages of growth in microgravity. A few large jellyfish species in the order

Rhizostomeae constitute an important food in Chinese cooking.

**Threatened species:** Species from India are not assessed for IUCN threatened categories.

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

**Species under CITES:** Indian scyphozoans are not listed under any appendices of CITES.

**Invasive alien species:** No scyphozoans species are reported as invasive in Indian waters.

**Gap areas:** The majority of scyphozoan research is focused on the nearby coastal region. More intensive research in the near EEZ region and oceanic waters is required to understand their diversity and distribution in the Indian waters.

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

**Table 2:** Scyphozoa of India

Sl. No.	Species
1.	<i>Atolla wyvillei</i> Haeckel, 1880
2.	<i>Atorella subglobosa</i> Vanhöffen, 1902
3.	<i>Nausithoe punctata</i> Kölliker, 1853
4.	<i>Periphylla periphylla</i> (Péron & Lesueur, 1810)
5.	<i>Cassiopea andromeda</i> (Forskål, 1775)
6.	<i>Cassiopea frondosa</i> (Pallas, 1774)
7.	<i>Cephea cephea</i> (Forskål, 1775)
8.	<i>Marivagia stellata</i> Galil & Gershwin, 2010
9.	<i>Netrostoma coerulescens</i> Maas, 1903
10.	<i>Netrostoma setouchianum</i> (Kishinouye, 1902)
11.	<i>Mastigias albipunctata</i> Stiasny, 1920
12.	<i>Mastigias ocellatus</i> (Modeer, 1791)
13.	<i>Mastigias papua</i> (Lesson, 1830)
14.	<i>Mastigietta palmipes</i> (Haeckel, 1880)
15.	<i>Phyllorhiza punctata</i> von Lendenfeld, 1884
16.	<i>Thysanostoma loriferum</i> (Ehrenberg, 1837)
17.	<i>Thysanostoma thysanura</i> Haeckel, 1880
18.	<i>Versuriga anadyomene</i> (Maas, 1903)



Sl. No.	Species
19.	<i>Lychnorhiza malayensis</i> Stiasny, 1920
20.	<i>Acromitus flagellatus</i> (Maas, 1903)
21.	<i>Acromitus rabanchatu</i> Annandale, 1915
22.	<i>Catostylus mosaicus</i> (Quoy & Gaimard, 1824)
23.	<i>Catostylus perezii</i> Ranson, 1945
24.	<i>Crambionella annandalei</i> Rao, 1931
25.	<i>Crambionella orsini</i> (Vanhöffen, 1888)
26.	<i>Crambionella stuhlmanni</i> (Chun, 1896)
27.	<i>Crambione mastigophora</i> Maas, 1903
28.	<i>Lobonema smithii</i> Mayer, 1910
29.	<i>Lobonemoides robustus</i> Stiasny, 1920
30.	<i>Lobonemoides sewelli</i> Rao, 1931
31.	<i>Rhizostoma pulmo</i> (Macri, 1778)
32.	<i>Rhopilema esculentum</i> Kishinouye, 1891
33.	<i>Rhopilema hispidum</i> (Vanhöffen, 1888)
34.	<i>Chrysaora fuscescens</i> Brandt, 1835
35.	<i>Chrysaora hysoscella</i> (Linnaeus, 1767)
36.	<i>Chrysaora melanaster</i> Brandt, 1835
37.	<i>Chrysaora quinquecirrha</i> (Desor, 1848)
38.	<i>Pelagia noctiluca</i> (Forsskal, 1775)
39.	<i>Cyanea capillata</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
40.	<i>Cyanea lamarckii</i> Péron & Lesueur, 1810
41.	<i>Cyanea nozakii</i> Kishinouye, 1891
42.	<i>Cyanea purpurea</i> Kishinouye, 1910
43.	<i>Aurelia aurita</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)
44.	<i>Aurelia solida</i> Browne, 1905

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