

## GLOSSARY TO JELLYFISH KEY

*appendages* – finger-shaped projections present on the lower surface of the mouth-arms of certain jellyfishes (e.g., *Rhopilema verrilli*). Homologous with filaments.

*bell* – the dome- to disk-shaped to cuboidal gelatinous main body part of a jellyfish, from which are suspended structures including mouth-arms and marginal tentacles (absent in some species). Also known as the umbrella or disc.

*filaments* – slender and elongate tentacle-like structures occurring on the lower surface of the mouth-arms of certain jellyfishes (e.g., *Phyllorhiza punctata*). Homologous with appendages.

*interradial* – located midway between the four primary radii of a medusa. If the four primary radii are taken as equivalent to N, E, S, and W on a compass, interradial regions occur on the NE, SE, SW, and NW radii. In cubomedusae, pedalia are interradial while stomach pouches, lips, and sense organs (rhopalia) are perradial (on the four primary radii) (Cornelius, 1997).

*mouth-arms* – structures for feeding, usually conspicuous, suspended from the central gastric region on the underside of the bell. They vary from four long, frilly, curtain-like structures surrounding a single central mouth (e.g., in *Chrysaora quinquecirrha*) to a thick, fused, firm gelatinous mass supporting many small mouths (e.g., in *Stomolophus meleagris*).

*oral arms* – see mouth-arms.

*pedalia* – in cubomedusae, the four interradial extensions of the lower bell supporting the tentacles. Cubozoan pedalia vary from paddle-shaped to hand-shaped.

*rhopaliar niche* – in cubomedusae, a pit containing a sense organ (rhopalium) located above the rim of the bell, with one present on each of the four perradial.

*scapulets* – Outgrowths from the vertical walls of the fused mouth-arms of some rhizostome medusae (e.g., *Rhopilema verrilli*), and bearing numerous mouth openings like those on the undersides of the mouth-arms. Also known as “shoulder ruffles.”

*stinging organelles* – microscopic organelles used in food capture and defence, and especially abundant on tentacles. They consist of an outer capsule and an inner thread that discharges when triggered. Certain kinds contain venom and cause the sting of a jellyfish. Upwards of 30 different categories have been recognized, named, and classified based on differences in morphology and function, and they have proven to be useful characters in taxonomy. Also known as nematocysts or cnidae.

*tentacles* – thread- or cord-like strands, often highly contractile, bearing numerous

stinging organelles. The term usually refers to those on the margin of the bell of a jellyfish (i.e., marginal tentacles), although they are sometimes present on the undersurface (e.g., in *Cyanea capillata fulva*; *C. c. versicolor*; *Drymonema dalmatinum*).