



UPSIDE-DOWN JELLYFISH

CASSIOPEA SP.

DID YOU KNOW?

Upside- down jellyfish can absorb copper and zinc! Scientists hope to find new ways of cleaning up industrial pollution by studying how they do it!

WHERE AT AQWA?

Entrance Aquarium - These are the first sea creatures you will encounter on your underwater journey along WA's amazing coastline.

SIZE: <30CM

DIET: ZOOPLANKTON

**MAIN PREDATOR:
FISH, TURTLES**

**HABITAT: SHELTERED
COASTAL AREAS,
MANGROVES**

**FOUND: TROPICAL
INDO-PACIFIC,
HAWAII, CARIBBEAN,
SOUTHERN FLORIDA**

DOWN IS UP!

Why swim when you can rest on the sea floor and have your food provided? These flat bodied jellyfish rest upside-down on the sea floor, their 8 feeding arms floating above. This unusual position provides them with an alternative way of feeding and explains their scientific name; According to legend the Greek goddess Cassiopea annoyed the sea god Poseidon and was placed among the stars, upside down, as punishment.

SUNSHINE AND SLIME

Instead of firing their stinging cells like harpoons, these jellies ooze a venom packed slime that traps and paralyzes prey. Their constant pulsing creates a current drawing food towards the arms which are covered in tiny mouths! Most importantly being flipped upside down enables them to host zooxanthellae. Alike with corals this algae provides upside-down jellyfish with up to 90% of their nutritional needs in return for a safe, sunlit place to live.

WIN WIN

Upside-down jellyfish don't just have a beneficial relationship with algae - they have also struck up partnerships with crabs and prawns. Carrying upside down jellyfish on their backs, gives decorator crabs a defensive 'shield' and upside-down jellyfish free transport to new feeding grounds. While little prawns seek protection, clearing the jellyfish of parasites as they hide amongst the arms.

NAPTIME

When their pulse rate lessens these jellies are said to be in a 'sleep state'.

TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING

Upside-down jellyfish are rarely found alone. Occasionally blooms occur, decreasing oxygen and shifting the structure of the food chain.