

# Checklist of the Cnidarian medusae (Jellyfish) and Ctenophorans (Comb Jellies) of British Columbia

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This is a preliminary checklist of the members of the phyla Cnidaria and Ctenophora that have mobile pelagic or epipelagic life stages (jellyfish and comb jellies). These form a significant portion of what is known as the **gelatinous zooplankters**. There was a great deal of inconsistency in the published literature, especially in higher level taxonomy. I opted to use Peter Schubert's (2005) classification as that seemed to be in agreement with more recent classification schemes. I relied heavily on the Jelly Zone (<http://jellieszone.com/>) and the Integrated Taxonomic Information System ([www.itis.gov](http://www.itis.gov)) for lower level taxonomies. When the ITIS database differed from Jelly Zone I deferred to the latter.

This list is undoubtedly far from complete. Kozloff (1996) lists many species not on this list. These species are likely to occur in BC, but I could not find any direct references or collection data to substantiate. It is my hope that this list will be used as a starting point for a comprehensive list.

## Phylum Cnidaria Hatscheck, 1888

Class Scyphozoa Götte, 1887

Order Semaestomea Agassiz, 1862

Family Pelagiidae Gegenbaur, 1856

Genus *Chrysaora* Péron and Lesueur, 1809

*C. fuscescens* Brandt, 1835

*C. melanaster* Brand, 1835

Family Cyaneidae Agassiz, 1862

Genus *Cyanea* Péron and Lesueur, 1809

*C. capillata* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Family Ulmaridae Haeckle, 1880

Genus *Aurelia* Lamarck, 1816

*A. labiata* Chamisso and Eysenhardt, 1821

*A. limbata* Brandt, 1835

Genus *Phacellophora* Brandt, 1835

*P. camtschatica* Brandt, 1835

Genus *Tiburonia* Matsumoto, Raskoff, and Lindsay, 2003

*Tiburonia granrojo* Matsumoto, Raskoff, and Lindsay, 2003

Class Staurozoa Marques and Collins, 2004

- Order Stauromedusae Haeckle, 1979
  - Family Lucernariidae Haeckle, 1879
    - Genus *Haliclystus* Clark, 1863
      - H. stejnegeri* Kishinouye, 1899
  - Family Depastridae Haeckle, 1879
    - Genus *Manania* Clark, 1863
      - M. gwilliami* Larson and Fautin, 1989
      - M. handi* Larson and Fautin, 1989
      - M. distincta* (Kishinouye, 1910)

Class Hydrozoa Owen, 1843

- Subclass Trachylinae Haeckle, 1879
  - Order Trachymedusae Haeckle, 1879
    - Family Ptychogastridae Mayer, 1910
      - Genus *Ptychogastria* Allman, 1878
        - P. polaris* Allman, 1878
    - Family Rhopalonematidae Russell, 1953
      - Genus *Aglantha* Haeckle, 1879
        - A. digitale* (Muller, 1776)
      - Genus *Crossota* Vanhöffen, 1902
        - C. rufobrunnea* (Kramp, 1913)
      - Genus *Pantachogon* Maas, 1893
        - P. haeckeli* Maas, 1893
    - Order Narcomedusae Haeckle, 1879
      - Family Aeginidae Eschscholtz, 1829
        - Genus *Aegina* Eschscholtz, 1829
          - A. citrea* Eschscholtz, 1829
      - Family Cuninidae Eschscholtz, 1829
        - Genus *Solmissus* Haeckle, 1879
          - S. marshalli* Agassiz and Mayer, 1902
    - Order Limnomedusae Kramp, 1938
      - Family Olindiidae Haeckle, 1879
        - Genus *Eperetmus* Bigelow, 1915
          - E. typus* Bigelow, 1915
        - Genus *Gonionemus* Agassiz, 1862
          - G. vertens* Agassiz, 1862
  - Subclass Leptolinae Haeckle, 1879
    - Order Anthomedusae Eschscholtz, 1829
      - Family Corymorphidae Allman, 1872
        - Genus *Plotocnide* Wagner, 1885
          - P. borealis* Wagner, 1885
      - Family Euphysidae
        - Genus *Euphysa* Forbes, 1848
          - E. flammea* (Linko, 1905)
          - E. japonica* (Maas, 1909)
          - E. vervooti* Brinckmann-Voss & Arai, 1997

- Family Tubulariidae Fleming, 1828  
 Genus *Hybocodon* Agassiz, 1862  
*H. prolifer* Agassiz, 1862
- Family Velellidae Brandt, 1835  
 Genus *Veleva* Linnaeus, 1758  
*V. veleva* Linnaeus, 1758
- Family Corynidae Johnston, 1836  
 Genus *Sarsia* Lesson, 1843  
*S. princeps* (Haeckle, 1879)  
*S. apicula* (Murboch and Shearer, 1902)  
*S. tubulosa* (Sars, 1835)  
*S. viridis* Brinckmann-Voss, 1980  
*S. cliffordi* Brinckmann-Voss, 1989  
*S. japonica* (Nagao, 1962)  
*S. eximia* (Allman, 1859)  
*S. spp.* (undescribed, at least two from B.C. Brinckmann-Voss, 1989)
- Family Cladonematidae Gegenbauer, 1857  
 Genus *Cladonema* Dujardin, 1843  
*C. californicum* Hyman, 1947
- Family Bythotiaridae Maas, 1905  
 Genus *Bythotiar* Gunther, 1903  
*B. depressa* Naumov, 1960  
*B. huntsmanni* Fraser, 1911)  
 Genus *Calycopsis* Fekes, 1882  
*C. bigelowi* Vanhoffen, 1911  
*C. nematophora* Bigelow, 1913
- Family Halimedusidae Arai & Brinckmann-Voss, 1980  
 Genus *Halimedes* Bigelow, 1916  
*H. typus* Bigelow, 1916
- Family Pandeidae Haeckle, 1879  
 Genus *Amphinema* Haeckle, 1879  
*A. platyhedos* Arai & Brinckmann-Voss, 1983  
 Genus *Geomackiea* Mills, 1985  
*G. zephyrolata* Mills, 1985  
 Genus *Pandea* Lesson, 1843  
*P. rubra* Bigelow, 1913  
 Genus *Stomotoca* Agassiz, 1862  
*S. atra* Agassiz, 1862  
 Genus *Neoturris* Hartlaub, 1913  
*N. brevicornis* (Murbach & Shearer, 1902)  
 Genus *Leukartiara*  
*L. foersteri* Arai & Brinckmann-Voss, 1980  
 Genus *Catablema* Haeckle, 1879  
*C. nodulosa* (Bigelow, 1913)
- Family Polyorchidae Agassiz, 1862

- Genus *Polyorchis* Agassiz, 1862
  - P. pencillatus* (Eschscholtz, 1829)
- Order Leptomedusae Eschscholtz, 1829
  - Family Campanulariidae Haeckle, 1879
    - Genus *Obelia* Péron and Lesueur, 1810
      - O. dichotoma* (Linnaeus, 1758)
      - O. longissima* (Pallas, 1766)
    - Genus *Clytia* Lamouroux, 1812
      - C. gregaria* (Agassiz, 1862)
  - Family Aequoreidae
    - Genus *Aequorea* Péron and Lesueur, 1809
      - A. victoria* (Murbach & Shearer, 1902)
  - Family Eirenidae Haeckle, 1879
    - Genus *Eutonina* Hartlaub, 1897
      - E. indicans* (Romanes, 1876)
  - Family Melicertidae Haeckle, 1879
    - Genus *Melicertum* Agassiz, 1862
      - M. octocostatum* (Sars, 1835)
  - Family Laodiceidae
    - Genus *Ptychogena*
      - P. californica* Torrey, 1909
      - P. lactea* Agassiz, 1865
  - Family Mitrocomidae Haeckle, 1879
    - Genus *Mitrocoma* Haeckle, 1864
      - M. cellularia* (Agassiz, 1865)
    - Genus *Foersteria* Arai & Brinckmann-Voss, 1980
      - F. purpurea* (Foerster, 1923)
- Order Siphonophora Eschscholtz, 1829
  - Family Agalmatidae
    - Genus *Agalma* Eschscholtz, 1825
      - A. elegans* (Sars, 1846)
    - Genus *Nanomia* Agassiz, 1865
      - N. bijuga* (delle Chiaje, 1841)
  - Family Diphyidae Quoy and Gaimard, 1827
    - Genus *Chelophyes* Totton, 1932
      - C. appendiculata* (Eschscholtz, 1829)
    - Genus *Dimophyes* Moser, 1925
      - D. arctica* (Chun, 1897)
    - Genus *Lensia* Totton, 1932
      - L. conoidea* (Keferstein and Ehlers, 1860)
  - Family Prayidae Kölliker, 1853
    - Genus *Praya* de Blainville, 1834
      - P. dubia* (Quoy and Gaimard, 1827)
      - P. reticulata* (Bigelow, 1911)

**Phylum Ctenophora Eschscholtz, 1829**

Class Nuda Chun, 1879  
 Order Beroida Eschscholtz, 1825  
 Family Beroidae Eschscholtz, 1825  
 Genus *Beroe* Gronov, 1760  
*B. cucumis* Fabricius, 1780

Class Tenctaculata Eschscholtz, 1825  
 Order Lobata Eschscholtz, 1825  
 Family Bolinopsidae Bigelow, 1912  
 Genus *Bolinopsis* Agassiz, 1860  
 Family Leucotheidae Krumbach, 1925  
 Genus *Leucothea* Mertens, 1833  
*L. pulchra* Matsumoto, 1988

Order Cydippida Gegenbauer, 1856  
 Family Euplokamididae Mills, 1988  
 Genus *Euplokamis* Chun, 1879  
*E. dunlapae* Mills, 1987  
 Family Mertensiidae Agassiz, 1860  
 Genus Unknown  
 Undescribed species found in BC fjords, 100-600 meters  
 (Wrobel)

## **Sources**

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- Kozloff, E. N. (1996) *Marine Invertebrates of the Pacific Northwest with additions and corrections*. University of Washington Press, Seattle WA. 539 pp.
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- Schuchert, Peter (2005): The Hydrozoa Directory - Hydrozoan Phylogeny and Classification. <http://www.ville-ge.ch/mhng/hydrozoa/intro/phylogeny.htm>
- Wrobel, David. *Pacific Coast Gelatinous Zooplankton* <http://www.ville-ge.ch/mhng/hydrozoa/intro/phylogeny.htm>