

Aurelia

Classification :

Kingdom : Animalia

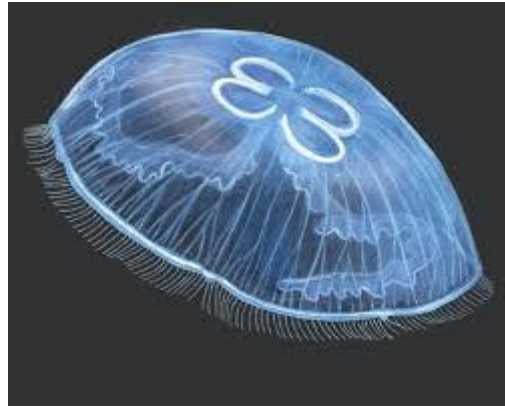
Phylum : Cnidaria

Class : Scyphozoa

Order : Semaestomeae

Family : Ulmaridae

Genus : Aurelia



For further details, [Link](#)

Characteristics :

- Aurelia, or moon jellyfish, is a transparent, saucer-shaped animal found in coastal temperate and tropical waters worldwide, living in large groups near the surface. They are carnivorous, feeding on small planktonic organisms using stinging tentacles and oral arms to capture prey.
- Aurelia is commonly referred to as jellyfish because it is made of a jelly-like substance. A jellyfish is not true fish which is a vertebrate animal with a backbone. It belongs to the class Scyphozoa of phylum Coelenterata. The most common scyphozoan jellyfish is Aurelia aurita (popularly known as moon jelly).
- **Appearance:** Aurelia has a gelatinous, transparent, bell-shaped body, often with a bluish-white or pinkish tint. Its four horseshoe-shaped gonads are visible through the bell.
- **Symmetry:** The body has tetramerous radial symmetry.
- **Sensory Organs:** It possesses rhopalia, which are sensory organs along the bell margin that detect light, and also function in balance.
- Aurelia lack respiratory, excretory, and circulatory systems, instead absorbing oxygen and nutrients directly through their thin body membrane.
- **Size:** Typically around 7.5-10 cm in diameter, but larger forms (up to 30 cm) exist.
- **Composition:** The body is composed of about 98% water.

Habit and Lifestyle

- **Behaviour:** They drift with water currents or swim feebly by contracting their bell. Aurelia shows photo-taxis, moving to the surface during cloudy weather and twilight and downwards during bright sunlight and night.
- **Social Structure:** They are often found in large groups or shoals.
- **Feeding:** They are carnivorous, feeding on small planktonic organisms like zooplankton, small molluscs, and crustaceans. Prey is captured by tentacles and swept into mucus membranes.
- **Reproduction:** Aurelia has a complex life cycle, with polyps reproducing asexually to produce medusae (the adult form) and medusae reproducing sexually.

Habitat

- **Location:** Found in coastal waters globally in both tropical and temperate regions.
- **Water Conditions:** Prefers calm, nutrient-rich waters, often near the surface of shallow bays and harbors.
- **Temperature and Salinity:** Can tolerate a wide range of temperatures (6-31 °C) and low salinity levels, though they thrive in warmer, saltier conditions.

Interesting facts :

- **Aging in reverse :** A unique adaptation allows them to sometimes reverse their life cycle, becoming younger instead of older, similar to the immortal jellyfish.
- **Bioluminescence:** These jellyfish can produce a blue-green glow when mechanically stimulated.
- **Microplastic resistance:** Aurelia are not harmed by microbeads found in cosmetics, recognizing them as non-food items.