

Common Name: strawberry anemone
Scientific Name: *Corynactis californica*
(KOR-ee-ACT-is kal-i-FOR-ni-ka)



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Defining Characteristics

- Max size of 2 cm high
- Red, orange, or pink with whitish club-tipped tentacles
- Mainly colonial

Habitat & Range

- Intertidal 45 m deep
- Rocks in areas of strong current
- British Columbia to Mexico

Prey & Predators

- Prey on copepods, invertebrate, fish larvae, crustaceans, snails
- Predators are nudibranchs, sea stars

Reproduction

- Usually reproduce asexually by budding creating identical offspring
- Reproduce sexually by broadcasting sperm and eggs

Additional Information

- Colonies of these anemones can span 20 m wide

Common Name: swimming anemone / cowardly anemone
Scientific Name: *Stomphia didemon*
(STOM-fee-ah DID-e-mon)



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Defining Characteristics

- Max size of 12 cm in diameter, 10 cm in height
- Cream to bright orange column with white or banded tentacles

Habitat & Range

- Subtidal waters to 20 m deep
- Sandy or shell-littered bottoms
- Alaska to California

Prey & Predators

- Prey on crustaceans
- Predators are nudibranchs, sea stars

Reproduction

- Reproduce sexually by broadcasting sperm and eggs

Additional Information

- This anemone will ‘swim’ by flexing its muscles in defense of predators
- “*Stomphia*” means ‘saucer mouth’

Common Name: tube-dwelling anemone
Scientific Name: *Pachycerianthus fimbriatus*
(PAK-ee-ser-ee-ANTH-us FIM-bree-A-tus)



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Defining Characteristics

- Max size of 20 cm in diameter, 35 cm in length
- Two sets of banded, golden-brown to purple-black tentacles come out from a leather-like tube in the sand

Habitat & Range

- Intertidal to 30 m deep
- Muddy, or sandy substrates
- Produces a mucus-like, tough, leathery tube 60 cm into the mud/sand
- Alaska to Mexico

Prey & Predators

- Prey on small invertebrates, plankton
- Predators are giant nudibranchs

Reproduction

- Reproduce sexually by broadcasting sperm and eggs

Additional Information

- When approached by a predator, this anemone quickly retreats down its tube in the sand
- The anemone's tentacles can grow back after being attacked by predators
- The giant nudibranch will lay its eggs on the tube of this anemone
- Some species in this genus of anemone have fluorescent tentacles that absorb UV light and re-emit it as visible light

Common Name: burrowing green anemone / moonglow anemone

Scientific Name: *Anthopleura artemisia*

(AN-tho-PLUR-ah ar-TEM-iss-ee-ah)



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Defining Characteristics

- Max size 10 cm in diameter, 25 cm column
- Long, slender tentacles with a buried column
- Pink or orange to green-grey, brown, or black, often with white bands

Habitat & Range

- Intertidal to 30 m deep
- Buried in sand to sandy-shell hash attached to a rock or shell
- Prefers protected bays but also found on open coast
- Alaska to southern California

Prey & Predators

- Prey on zooplankton, small bottom dwelling worms, fish, squid, herring eggs
- Predators are nudibranchs, sea stars

Reproduction

- Broadcast sperm and eggs in the late spring-early summer
- Can reproduce asexually by fission creating two identical animals

Additional Information

- At low tide, this organism may withdraw below the sand
- Has a symbiotic relationship with an algae in the exposed tissues
- Will attack other anemones with white spherules—small bumps at the base of the tentacles that contain nematocysts

Common Name: crimson anemone / snakelock anemone
Scientific Name: *Cribrinopsis fernaldi*
(kri-BRIN-op-sis fer-NAL-deye)



Kirt L. Onthank

Defining Characteristics

- Max size of 20 cm column
- Long, slender, drooping tentacles that drape over the column
- White, yellow, or pink with a thin zigzag pattern
- Small, white tubercles (raised spots) down the column
- A ring of knobs called ‘contact tentacles’ are on the top edge of the column

Habitat & Range

- Subtidal to more than 300 m deep
- Rocky substrate
- Alaska to Puget Sound

Prey & Predators

- Prey on zooplankton, small bottom dwelling worms, fish, squid
- Predators are nudibranchs, sea stars

Reproduction

- Young are brooded in the anemone and released as larvae into the ocean

Additional Information

- Contact tentacles are used for attacking other anemones that get too close

Common Name: aggregating anemone / pink tipped anemone
Scientific Name: *Anthopleura elegantissima*
(AN-tho-PLUR-a ELL-e-gan-TIS-e-ma)



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Defining Characteristics

- Max size of 10 cm across
- Olive to bright green, with pink tips
- Has a symbiotic relationship (living together for the benefit of each organism) with photosynthetic algae

Habitat & Range

- Intertidal up to 18 m deep
- Rock walls, boulders, pilings
- Semi-protected coastal waters
- Alaska to Mexico

Prey & Predators

- Prey on copepods, amphipods, isopods
- Predators are nudibranchs, leather star, mosshead sculpin

Reproduction

- Sexual reproduction by broadcasting sperm and eggs
- Asexual reproduction by budding

Additional Information

- Colonies of aggregating anemones are territorial and are actually at war against each other
- They will sting members of neighboring colonies to keep them away

Common Name: giant green anemone / green surf anemone

Scientific Name: *Anthopleura xanthogrammica*

(AN-tho-PLUR-a ZAN-tho-gram-i-ka)



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Defining Characteristics

- Max size of 30 cm across
- Crown is greenish, bluish or white with dark brown column
- Not aggressive to neighbours

Habitat & Range

- Intertidal to 30 m deep
- Rocky exposed shores and tidepools
- Alaska to Panama

Prey & Predators

- Prey on crabs, small fish, sea urchins, mussels
- Predators are predatory snails, sea spiders

Reproduction

- Sexual reproduction only
- Broadcasts sperm and eggs
- Eggs are a brownish colour

Additional Information

- The largest green anemone
- More solitary than aggregating anemone
- Cover themselves with shells to reflect sunlight and keep cool when the tide goes out
- Produce toxins that stimulate human heart muscle and have been considered for medical use
- The more sun exposure this anemone receives, the brighter green it will be due to the increased growth of algae in its skin

Common Name: giant plumose anemone
Scientific Name: *Metridium farcimen*
(meh-TRID-ee-um far-SEE-men)



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Defining Characteristics

- Average height is 25 to 75 cm tall
- White, cream, tan, brown, orange in colour
- Long broad column with many slender, short tentacles around oral disk

Habitat & Range

- Subtidal waters to 300 m deep
- Rocks, floats, wharfs
- Alaska to Mexico

Prey & Predators

- Prey on plankton, detritus
- Predators are nudibranchs, sea stars

Reproduction

- Sexual reproduction by broadcasting sperm and eggs
- Asexual reproduction
- As the anemone moves it leaves behind parts of its base behind which grow into cloned anemones

Additional Information

- Sting drifting organisms with their frilly tentacles
- Have specialized tentacles that can reach 12 cm in length for defense against non-identical anemones

Common Name: short plumose anemone / powder puff anemone

Scientific Name: *Metridium senile*

(meh-TRID-ee-um SEN-ill-ee)



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Defining Characteristics

- Max size of 10 cm in diameter, 5-10 cm tall
- Range in colour from white, cream, brown, tan
- A smooth column with up to 100 slender tentacles

Habitat & Range

- Intertidal to 300 m deep
- Hard surfaces, on floats, in areas of strong current
- Circumpolar (throughout the arctic circle), Alaska to southern California

Prey & Predators

- Prey on zooplankton, small bottom dwelling worms, fish, squid, kelp
- Predators are nudibranchs, sea stars

Reproduction

- As it moves, small pieces of this anemone's foot may break off to become new, identical anemones (clones)
- Reproduce sexually by broadcasting sperm and eggs

Additional Information

- These anemones may even be found on the carapace of crabs
- Anemones found at the border of a group of clones can develop 'catch tentacles' that will probe adjacent areas for different species of anemone and attack them with special nematocysts in these tentacles

Common Name: painted anemone / dahlia anemone
Scientific Name: *Urticina crassicornis*
(UR-tih-SEE-nah CRASS-ee-COR-nis)



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Defining Characteristics

- Max size of 30 cm across
- Several shades of colour; patches of red, green, or yellow on the column and red, white, or pink tipped tentacles
- Splotchy like appearance on the base (disk column)

Habitat & Range

- Intertidal to 30 m deep
- Rocky substrates
- Circumpolar (throughout the arctic circle), Alaska to southern California

Prey & Predators

- Prey on small fish, crabs, molluscs
- Predators are sea snails and sea stars

Reproduction

- Asexual reproduction by cloning
- Sexual reproduction by broadcasting sperm and eggs

Additional Information

- Solitary anemone
- Cannot sting through a person's skin
- Can live for over 50 years

Common Name: proliferating anemone / brooding anemone

Scientific Name: *Epiactis prolifera*

(ep-ee-AK-tis pro-LIFF-er-ah)



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Defining Characteristics

- Max size of 8 cm across and 10 cm tall
- Varying shades of red, pink, green, or brown

Habitat & Range

- Intertidal to 18 m deep
- Rocky substrates, coralline algae
- Mainly dwell on eelgrass
- Southern Alaska to southern California

Prey & Predators

- Prey on crab, shrimp, mussels
- Predators are nudibranchs, leather star, mosshead sculpin

Reproduction

- Internal fertilization
- Female adults are small
- Large adults are mainly hermaphroditic
- Cross and self fertilization can occur

Additional Information

- After hatching inside the adult anemone, the babies come out through the mouth and cling to the side of their parent until they are big enough to live on their own

Common Name: rose anemone / fish-eating anemone
Scientific Name: *Urticina piscivora*
(UR-tee-SEE-nah PIS-i-VOR-ah)



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Defining Characteristics

- Max size of 30 cm across
- Tentacles are hot pink or white
- Broad dark maroon column with no markings

Habitat & Range

- Intertidal to 48 m deep
- Alaska to California

Prey & Predators

- Prey on small fish, shrimp, other invertebrates
- Predators are nudibranchs

Reproduction

- Sexual reproduction by broadcasting sperm and eggs
- Asexual reproduction by budding
- Juveniles are much brighter in colour and may look quite different

Additional Information

- This species has more powerful stinging tentacles than many other anemones
- They grow larger when food is plentiful and "grow" smaller when food is scarce
- The painted greenling (*Oxylebius pictus*), has been observed lying unharmed in this anemone like clownfish do in tropical anemones in symbiosis

Common Name: fried-egg jelly
Scientific Name: *Phacellophora camtschatica*
(FA-sell-o-FOR-a CAM-sha-TEE-ka)



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Defining Characteristics

- Max size of 60 cm
- Opaque bell with yellow centre that looks like a fried egg
- Has 16 clusters of a dozen or so tentacles

Habitat & Range

- Pelagic waters (open sea)
- Alaska to Chile and Japan

Prey & Predators

- Prey on jellies, other zooplankton
- Predators are sea turtles, ocean sunfish, blue rockfish

Reproduction

- Sexual reproduction by broadcasting sperm and eggs
- Asexual reproduction by budding

Additional Information

- One of the biggest jellies in the Salish Sea
- Because of its weak sting, small crustaceans ride the bell and drift along with the jelly in the current

Common Name: lion's mane / red medusa
Scientific Name: *Cyanea capillata*
(SIGH-an-EE-a ca-PIL-ah-ta)



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Defining Characteristics

- Max size of 12 cm to 2 m across
- Stinging tentacles can be 10 times the body length
- Vivid yellow to orange or sometimes red in colour
- Bell is divided into 8 lobes with many tentacles

Habitat & Range

- Pelagic waters (open sea)
- Alaska to Mexico

Prey & Predators

- Prey on zooplankton and small fish
- Predators are seabirds, larger fish, sea turtles, other jellies

Reproduction

- Sexual reproduction in the medusa stage
- Asexual reproduction in the polyp stage
- Young fish huddle under parents as they swim

Additional Information

- Warning! Have painful sting, humans who touch tentacles may develop a bee-like sting
- This jelly was used in the Sherlock Holmes short story “The Adventure of the Lion’s Mane”

Common Name: sea nettle
Scientific Name: *Chrysaora fuscescens*
(krih-SAH-or-ay few-SESH-ens)



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Defining Characteristics

- Bell size of 1 m in diameter
- Tentacle length of up to 4.6 m
- Golden-brown bell with 24 maroon tentacles and white oral arms

Habitat & Range

- Pelagic waters (open sea)
- Alaska to California, Japan, Kamchatka, the Bering Sea

Prey & Predators

- Prey on young pollock, larval fish, zooplankton, other jellies
- Predators are seabirds, sunfish, sea turtles

Reproduction

- Males broadcast sperm and females broadcast eggs

Additional Information

- Warning! The trailing tentacles have quite a sting if you touch them
- The long, trailing tentacles contain stinging cells that contain small barb-like structures called nematocysts that sting and paralyzes prey
- Fishing down the food chain and other human affects on coastal regions may have created more favorable conditions for jellies
- Sometimes small crabs find shelter within this jellyfish

Common Name: water jellies / many ribbed medusa
Scientific Name: *Aequorea spp.*
(ee-KWOR-ee-ah)



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Defining Characteristics

- Max size of 17.5 cm in diameter, 4 cm high
- Thick, colourless, transparent bell with white radial stripes resembling a bicycle wheel with spokes
- Produce green bioluminescent pattern

Habitat & Range

- Pelagic coastal waters (open sea)
- Alaska to Mexico

Prey & Predators

- Prey on crustaceans, other jellyfish, free-swimming tunicates
- Predators are other jellies

Reproduction

- Reproduce sexually by broadcasting sperm and eggs

Additional Information

- These jellies contain a similar chemical to the one that lights up fireflies at night

Common Name: moon jelly / white sea jelly

Scientific Name: *Aurelia labiata*

(AWH-rell-EE-ah la-BEE-ah-TA)



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Defining Characteristics

- Max size of 40 cm across
- Lack long trailing tentacles but have many little tentacles
- Four central distinctive pinkish, yellow or purple ‘horseshoes’ shapes (sex organs)

Habitat & Range

- Pelagic coastal waters (open sea) including bays and inlets
- Alaska to California

Prey & Predators

- Prey on zooplankton using stinging cells and sticky mucus to catch food
- Predators are birds, turtles, other jellies

Reproduction

- Sexual reproduction in the medusa stage
- Asexual reproduction in the polyp stage by budding
- Internal fertilization
- Spawn in sheltered bays

Additional Information

- When spawning, great clouds of moon jellies appear close to shore and get washed onto beaches in storms

Common Name: red-eye medusa / bell-shaped jelly fish

Scientific Name: *Polyorchis penicillatus*

(POL-EE-or-kis pen-i-sill-a-tus)



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Defining Characteristics

- Max size of 10 cm in height
- Transparent, colourless bell with yellow, brown, or purplish organs
- Tiny red eye spots where the bell meets the tentacles are light sensitive to help orient itself

Habitat & Range

- Pelagic coastal waters (open sea) including bays and inlets
- Alaska to Mexico

Prey & Predators

- Prey on zooplankton, worms, crustaceans
- Predators on birds, sea turtles

Reproduction

- Separate sexes
- Sexual reproduction

Additional Information

- This jelly picks up food as it drifts over the bottom
- Benthic medusa, generally stays near the bottom