



# 5 GOLDEN JELLYFISH OF PALAU

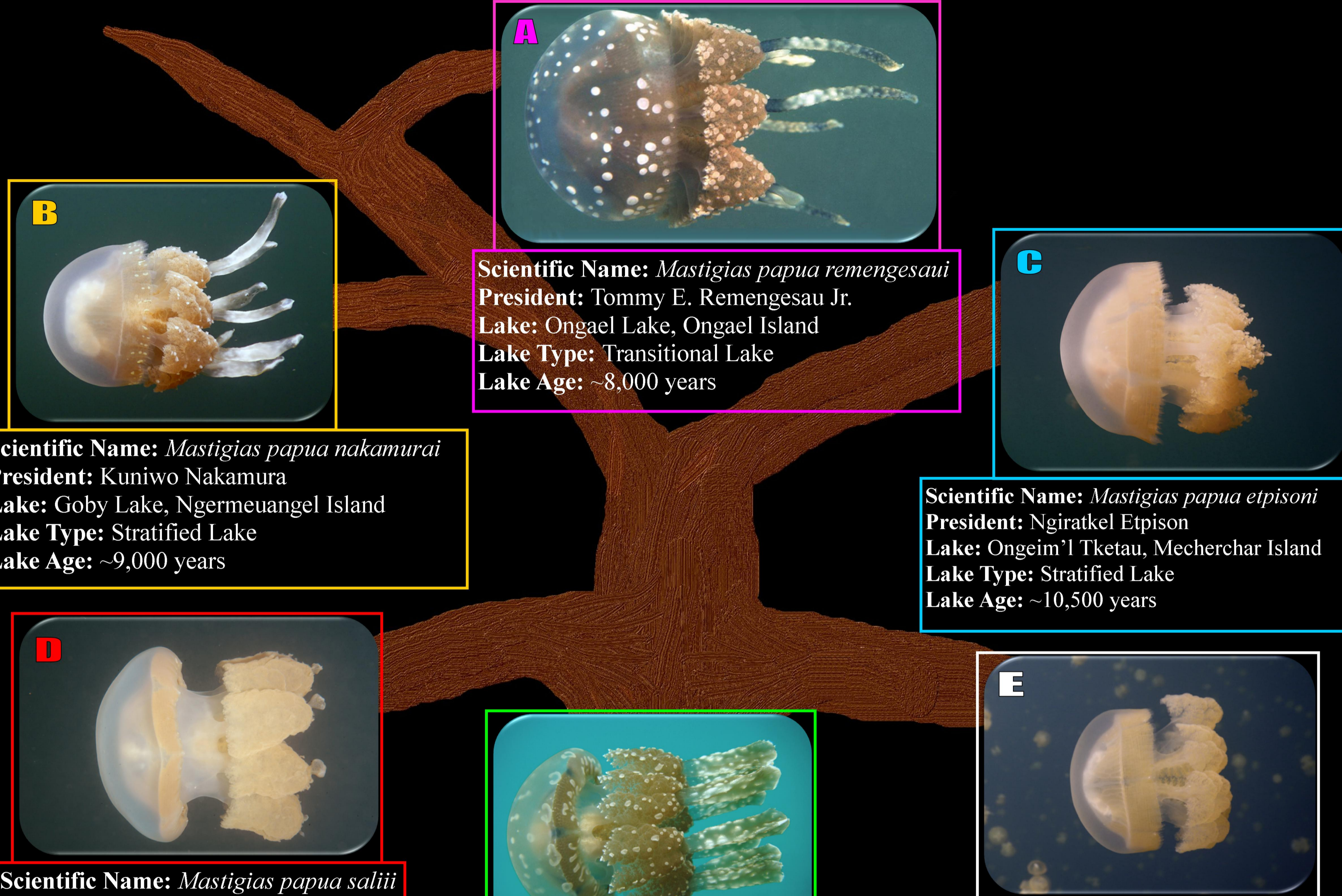


## CLASSIFICATION OF *Mastigias papua*

**KINGDOM:** Animalia  
**PHYLUM:** Cnidaria  
**CLASS:** Scyphozoa  
**ORDER:** Rhizostomae  
**FAMILY:** Mastigiidae  
**GENUS:** *Mastigias*  
**SPECIES:** *papua*  
**SUBSPECIES:**

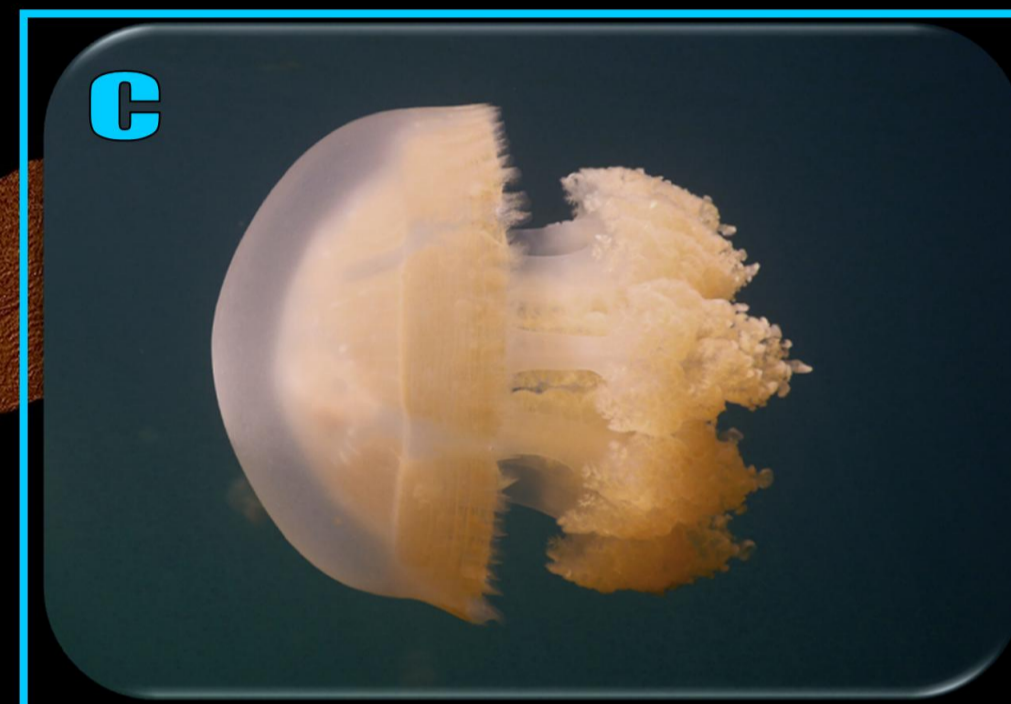
- A) *remengesau*
- B) *nakamura*
- C) *etpisoni*
- D) *salii*
- E) *remeliiki*

These five subspecies were named after the first five elected presidents of Palau. The age of the lake lines up with the order of the presidents. The jellyfish from the oldest lake was named after the first president of Palau and the youngest jellyfish was named after the fifth president of Palau.

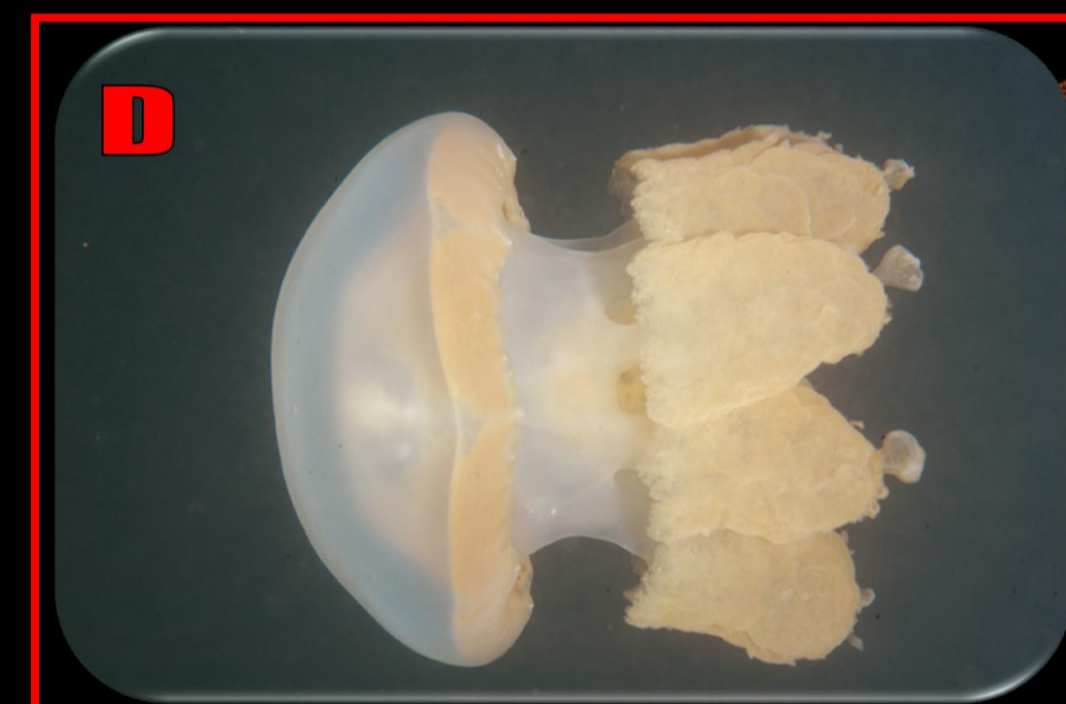


**Scientific Name:** *Mastigias papua remengesau*  
**President:** Tommy E. Remengesau Jr.  
**Lake:** Ongael Lake, Ongael Island  
**Lake Type:** Transitional Lake  
**Lake Age:** ~8,000 years

**Scientific Name:** *Mastigias papua nakamura*  
**President:** Kuniwo Nakamura  
**Lake:** Goby Lake, Ngermeuangel Island  
**Lake Type:** Stratified Lake  
**Lake Age:** ~9,000 years



**Scientific Name:** *Mastigias papua etpisoni*  
**President:** Ngiratkel Etpison  
**Lake:** Ongeim'l Tketau, Mecherchar Island  
**Lake Type:** Stratified Lake  
**Lake Age:** ~10,500 years



**Scientific Name:** *Mastigias papua salii*  
**President:** Lazarus Salii  
**Lake:** Clear Lake, Mecherchar Island  
**Lake Type:** Stratified Lake  
**Lake Age:** ~10,500 years

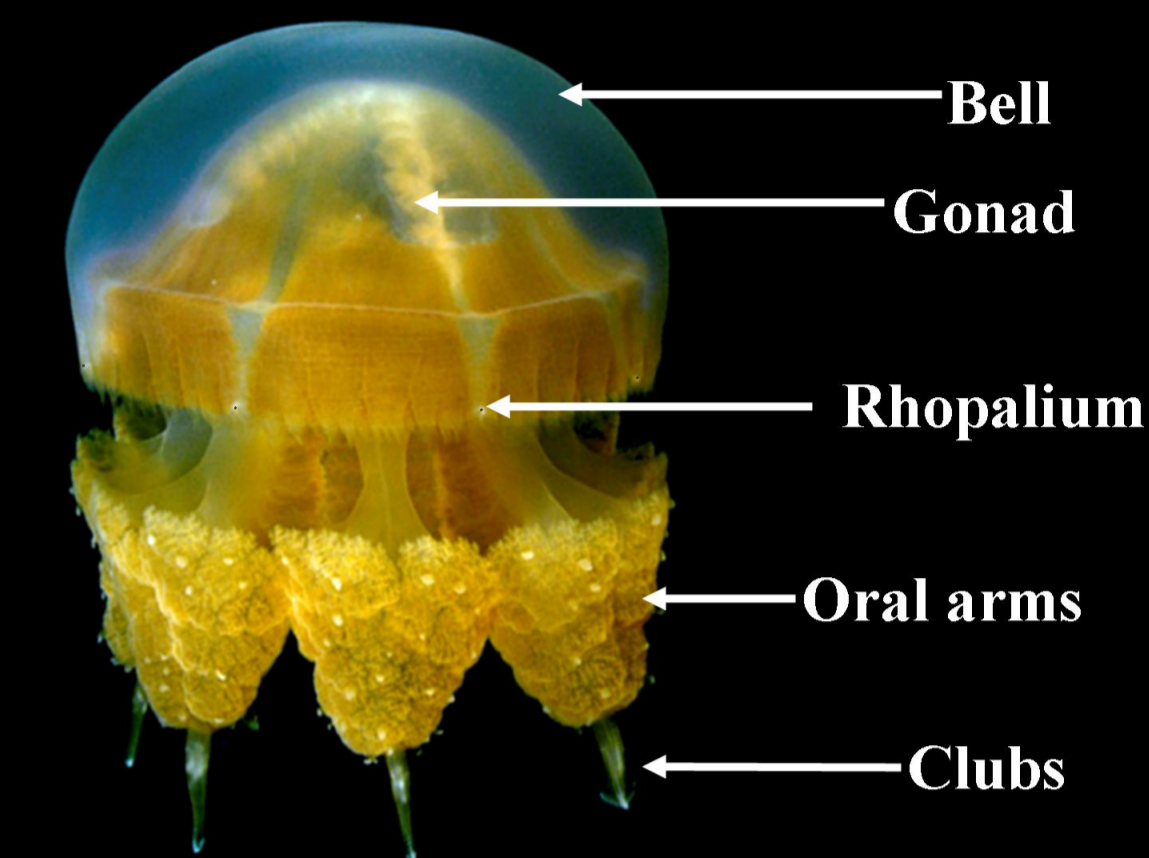


**Scientific Name:** *Mastigias papua remeliiki*  
**President:** Haruo Remeliik  
**Lake:** Ngermeuangel Lake, Ngermeuangel Island  
**Lake Type:** Stratified Lake  
**Lake Age:** ~12,000 years

### LAGOON ANCESTOR

*Mastigias papua* is the ancestor of the marine lake Golden jellyfish subspecies. This species of Golden jellyfish has a very mild sting and algae in its tissues. The stinging cells are found on the oral arms. *Mastigias papua* resembles the youngest of the five subspecies more than the older ones. It has longer clubs, a larger bell with white spots and sometimes can be blue to dark purple in color. The older subspecies are smaller, have little to no clubs and the bell is a plain golden color. However, the five subspecies still obtain food in the same way as their ancestor. With symbiotic algae in their tissue, they all obtain food from the sun through photosynthesis, and they can also obtain food by using their sting to immobilize zooplankton and feed on them.

## JELLYFISH ANATOMY



**Bell** - the bell is the half-moon shaped part of the jellyfish. It is ringed with muscles which the jellyfish can tighten and relax in order to propel themselves through the water.

**Gonad** - the gonad is the reproductive part of the jellyfish that produces sperm or egg. Both male and female jellyfish have gonads.

**Rhopalium (plural-rhopalia)** - also known as primitive eyes, rhopalia are small sensory structures found on the rim of the bell. They are used for sensing light and movement.

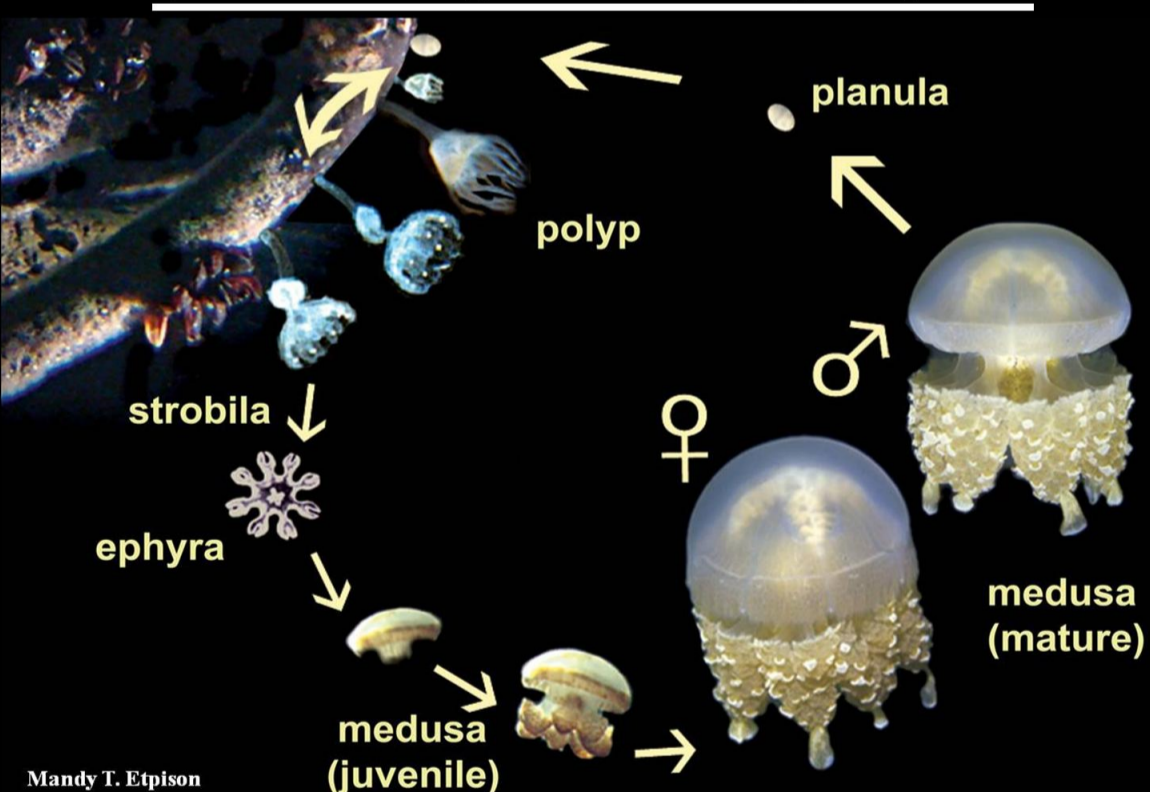
**Oral arms** - oral arms contain stinging cells that allows the jellyfish to sting its prey before eating it.

**Clubs** - it is not well understood what the terminal clubs are used for, but they could be used as a second defense from predators such as turtles.

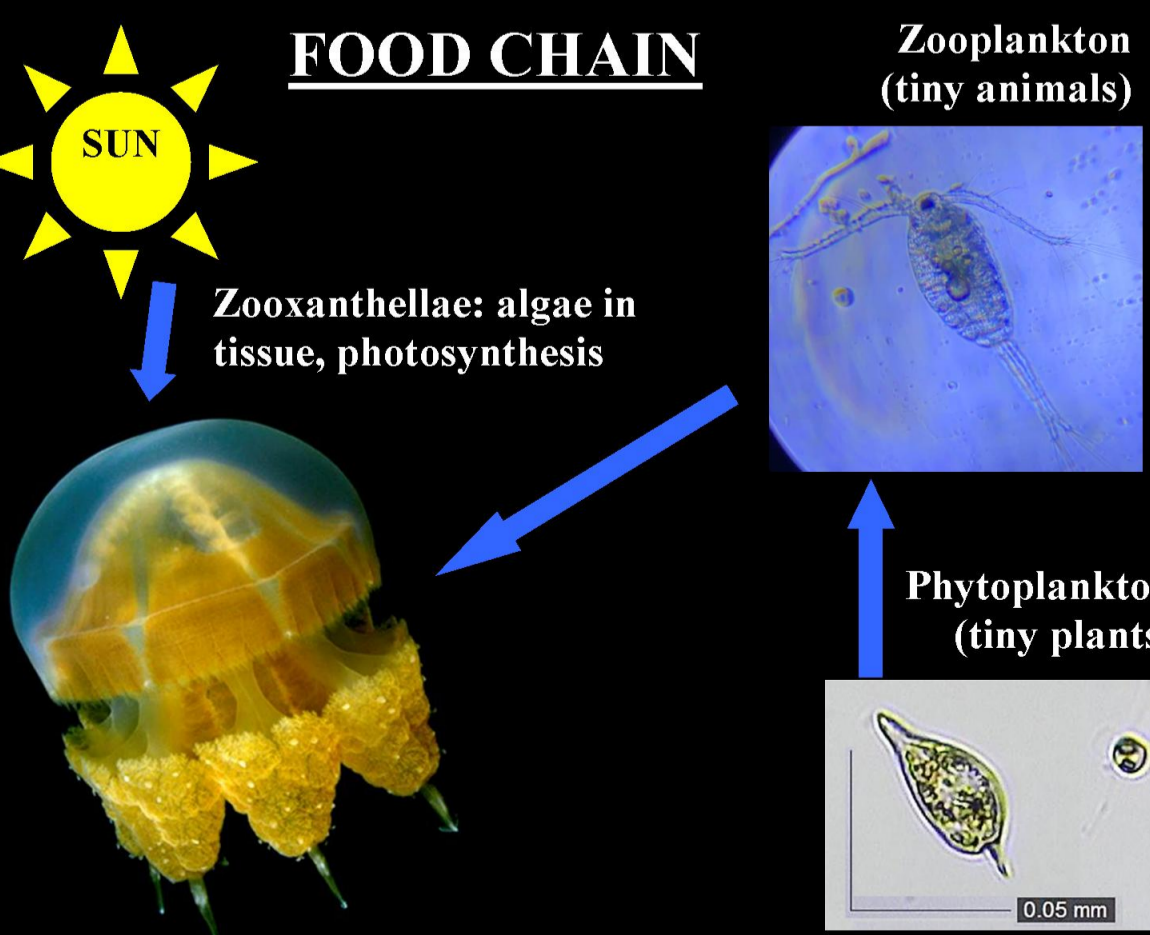
## 10 FUN FACTS ABOUT JELLYFISH

1. Jellyfish have been around for at least 500 million years.
2. There are about 2,000 species of jellyfish.
3. Jellyfish are 95% water, with no heart and no brain.
4. Jellyfish have "eyes" that helps them sense their environment.
5. Jellyfish have stingers, including the ones in Jellyfish Lake.
6. Jellyfish are not always free swimmers.
7. Some jellyfish are immortal.
8. A group of jellyfish is called a bloom, swarm or smack.
9. Other species of jellyfish kill more humans than sharks.
10. Jellyfish have been to space.

## JELLYFISH LIFE CYCLE



## FOOD CHAIN



For more information please contact the Coral Reef Research Foundation on Malakal, home of the jellyfish wall.  
**Phone:** 488-5255 **Email:** [errfpalau@gmail.com](mailto:errfpalau@gmail.com)  
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**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/CoralReefResearchFoundation>

