# Upside-down Jellies

*Cassiopeidae sp.*

**Exhibit Size:** 150 gallons
**Water Type:** Saltwater (25-35 ppt)
**Temperature:** 72-76°F

**Description:** A colonial jelly that can be found in groups, they have a more flattened bell with short bushy tentacles. Longer, blue tentacles are concentrations of their zooxanthellae. They have a white and pinkish-to-tan coloration. They pulse the edge of their bell as the rest on the bottom in order to push water over them to receive food and oxygen.

**Range:** Found from Southern Florida to the Caribbean, and Hawaii to the Indo-Pacific ocean

**Habitat:** These jellies live in warmer regions and are usually found in sheltered coastal areas like mangroves and estuaries.

**Diet:** Approximately 90% of their energy comes from their symbiotic relationship with the zooxanthellae that live in their oral arms. The rest of their nutritional needs come from their food source, zooplankton.

**Length:** This species varies in size but can grow up to 15 inches in diameter

**Status:** Not Listed

**Predators:** Sea turtles, tuna, sunfish, butterfish, and spiny dogfish.

**Threats:** Habitat destruction, pollution\

**Relatives:** Other rhizostomes and the Family Cassiopeidae

**Breeding:** The adult medusas send their sperm and eggs into the water column, where they meet to create a planula. The planula will then find a place to anchor and form a polyp. The polyps will then pop off an ephyra (baby upside-down jellyfish).

**Quick Facts:**
- The bodies of these jellies are 95% water
- They can change color according to the sunlight.

**Conservation:** Mangrove forests, where upside-down jellies live, are threatened by habitat loss and pollution. Conservation efforts going into protecting these habitats also protect all of the animals that live within them, including upside-down jellies.

**Sources:**

https://www.montereybayaquarium.org/animals/animals-a-to-z/upside-down-jelly

https://australian.museum/learn/animals/jellyfish/upside-down-jellyfish/

https://aqua.org/explore/animals/upside-down-jelly