



dangerous creatures

stingray

Distribution

Australia wide in very shallow waters.

Size and appearance

Stingrays typically have a triangular shaped body that is covered in small denticles that feel abrasive like sandpaper. Stingrays can vary dramatically in size – from being small enough to fit in the palm of your hand to those stretching up to 7m in diameter (from wing tip to wing tip). Most stingrays have one or more barbs (containing venom) on their tails that they use for defence.

Symptoms and signs

Stingrays can cause serious and severe puncture wounds that are characteristically bluish white in colour. Patients may experience increasing localised pain which may spread to the entire limb, swelling, ongoing breakdown of tissue around the sting site, nausea and vomiting, muscle cramps, diarrhoea, excessive salivation, sweating, syncope (fainting) and convulsions.

First aid

1. Call 000.
2. Provide emergency care and control bleeding if required – do not remove the barb.
3. Immerse the affected area in hot water – as hot as the rescuer can stand with their elbow.
4. Rest and reassure the patient.
5. Oxygen therapy may be required.
6. Seek medical aid – all stingray patients should seek medical attention.

How to avoid them

- Shuffle your feet when walking through shallow waters and rocky outcrops.
- Wear thick-soled shoes.
- Do not touch, threaten or provoke stingrays.
- When diving or snorkelling maintain a safe distance.

Did you know?

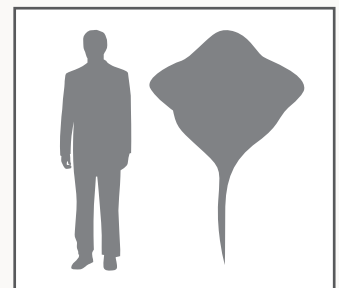
- Stingrays don't have bones, but rather cartilage which is much lighter, giving them better flexibility than other fish.
- A group or collection of stingrays is commonly referred to as a 'fever' of stingrays.



Dasyatis pastinaca



Distribution in Australian waters



Average size relative to human



For additional information visit www.stingstabstrike.com