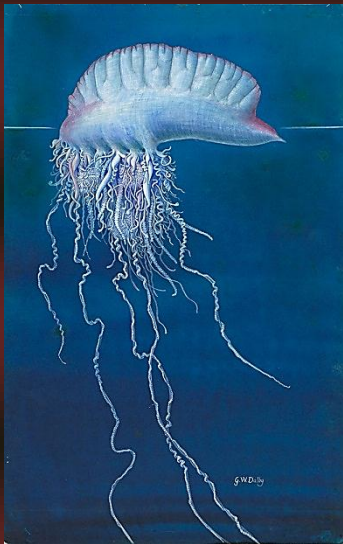
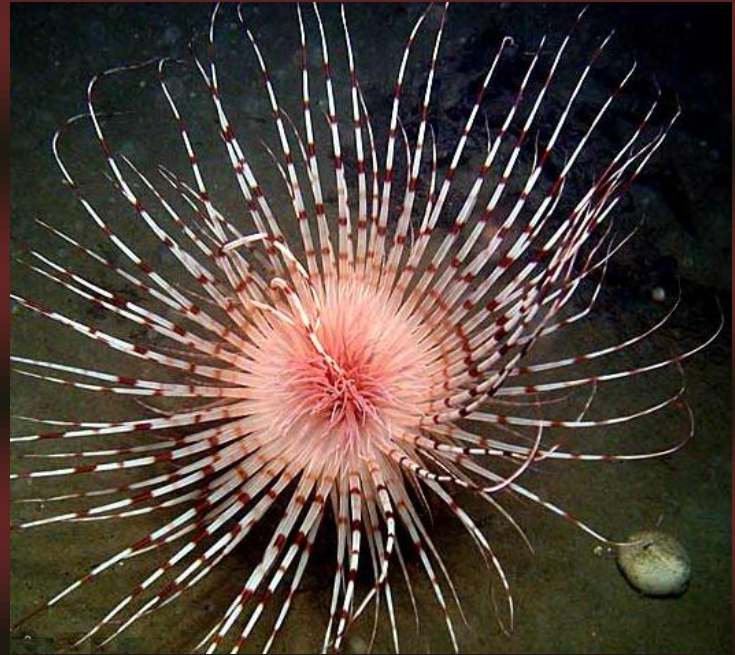


# STINGING ANIMALS: COELENTERATES WITH FEARSOM TINY WEAPON

- Stinging animals are placed in the Phylum Coelenterata or Cnidaria.
- The name “Coelenterata” means “hollow gut”.
- This is an interesting group of more than 9000 species.
- Along with Ctenophores they make up the radiate animals, characterised by biradial symmetry with tissue grade of organization.
- Radial symmetry has a selective advantage for Coelenterates which are sessile or free floating or weak swimmers, because it is equally receptive, responsive, and protected on all sides.



## Characteristics of the phylum Coelenterata

- Radial symmetry with oral and aboral ends.
- Two basic types of individuals: Polyps and Medusae.
- Tissue grade of organization.
- Diploblastic body.
- Stinging cells or Cnidoblasts.
- Gastrovascular cavity or Coelenteron with a single opening, the mouth surrounded by tentacles.
- Nerve net.

The phylum includes some of the nature's strangest and loveliest creatures: Hydra, Obelia, Sea anemones, Sea fans, Portuguese man of war (Physalia), Corals etc.

