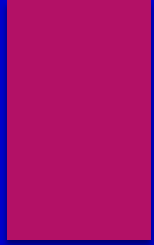


The Life Cycle of a Blue Dragon Mollusk

By

EVAL





If you heard about a tiny, funny-looking animal that spends its life floating upside-down on the surface of the Pacific, Atlantic, or Indian Ocean thanks to an air bubble which it swallows and keeps inside its belly, going wherever the currents and the wind take it, you would probably think it was just a harmless creature that likes to relax in the water.

But this slender, up-to-3-centimeter-long animal, which is called the blue dragon mollusk, is not nearly as innocent as it seems.

The first trick it's got up its sleeve is a form of camouflage called countershading that protects it from both flying and swimming predators while it floats. It feeds on jellyfish, especially the highly poisonous Portuguese Man-O'-War. Although a sting by a Portuguese Man-O'-War is very painful to a human, the blue glaucus can swallow its prey's stinging cells without hurting itself. It may keep itself safe from the poison by releasing protective mucus and by hard barrier-like discs inside its skin.

But the blue glaucus does more than simply protect itself against these stings. It stores the swallowed poison inside the up to 84 finger-like structures or cerata sticking out of its body, and then uses this poison to defend itself against other predators!





Eggs

The blue dragon mollusk stores its eggs at it's sides, under its wing-like fins.

They eat lots of **POISONOUS** jellyfish.

After they've eaten most off a jellyfish, they lay their eggs on the **POISONOUS** carcass of their dinner!

DISGUSTING!!!!!!!!!!!! They also lay them on anything that floats because the eggs cannot breathe underwater yet!!!!!!

STRANGE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



THIS IS WHERE
THE EGGS ARE
STORED READY
TO BE LAYED

HATCHLINGS

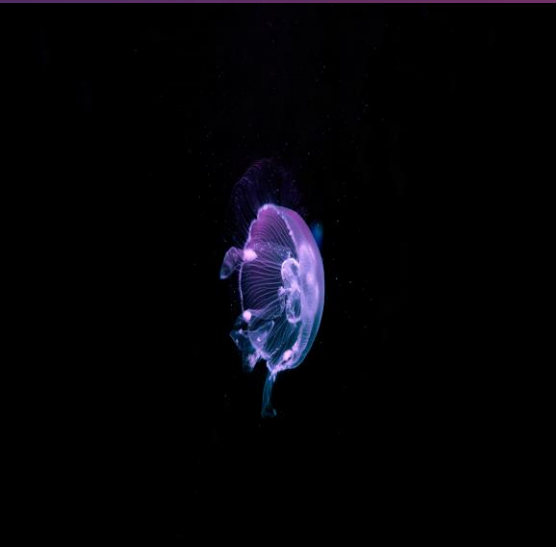
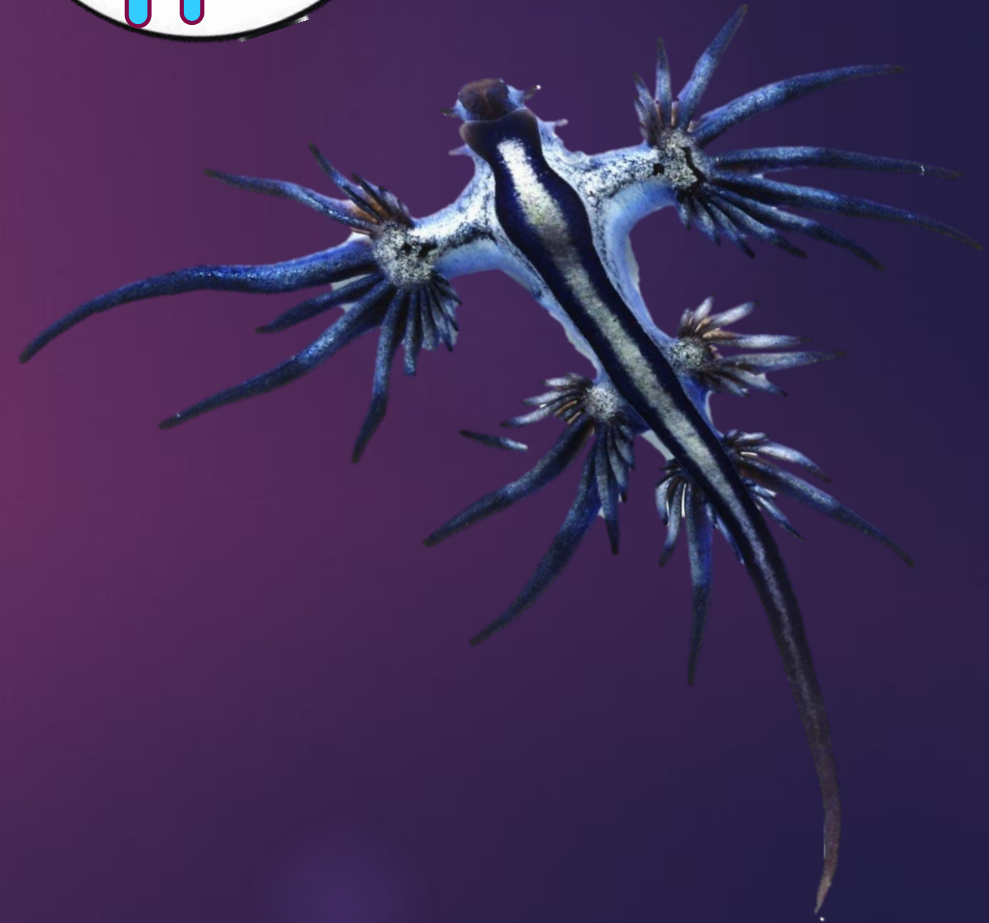
The Blue dragon mollusk (known by many more names) *will hatch* from the egg strings and *will be* about 1 cm.

HATCHLINGS



Stage 2

- Now our little hatchling goes and gets ready to go hunt for food in the open ocean, which is filled with predators like the octopus, jellyfish or the Bobbité...



STAGE 3

- ▶ At this stage The blue dragon mollusk has become about 2 to 2.5cm big and is almost FULL SIZE and is almost ready to mate!!!! (get a girlfriend or boyfriend!!!!) **EEWWWW!!!!**

Angel and
Titan are....
mating!!!!!!



STAGE 4

- ▶ Now it is an adult and is ready to mate and is very experienced at hunting venomous jellyfish such as the portugese man 'o warand the blue bottle jellyfish and the violet snail.(which is not a jellyfish!!!!)





THANK YOU FOR
WATCHING!!!!!!!!!!

BY EVA LOCKWOOD

