THE IRUKANDJI SYNDROME
New Species and Management Guidelines

Lisa-Anne Gershwin
and
John Pearn

The “Spark of Life” Conference
Hobart 30 April – 2 May 2009
The Irukandji Syndrome

• 1945 – “Type A Stinging”
  Dr Ronald Southcott
  Irukandji syndrome
  Dr Hugo Flecker

• 1961 – Small carybdeid jellyfish
  Dr Jack Barnes - Cairns
THE JACK BARNES BICENTENNIAL
MANGROVE BOARDWALK

General Information
- Due care and attention should be exercised on the boardwalk.
- Adult supervision is recommended for children under 12 years of age.
- Use of insect repellent or covering clothing is recommended.
- Fishing from the boardwalk is prohibited.
- Please do not litter - use bins provided.
- Both walks are suitable for wheelchairs.

Acknowledgements
- The assistance of the following persons and organisations is gratefully acknowledged:
  - The dedicated employees who constructed the boardwalk.
  - Cairns Port Authority.
  - National Parks and Wildlife Service.
  - Australian Institute of Marine Science.

Northern Boardwalk
The northern boardwalk extends to Little Barron Creek, where viewing platforms are provided at the creekside. About half way along the walk, a tower offers a view across the tree tops. This walk returns in a circuit to the carpark, the 830 metre round trip taking about 30 minutes at a leisurely pace. Signs are placed along the boardwalk to provide information on the many ways that plants and animals have adapted to this interesting environment.

Southern Boardwalk
The southern boardwalk explores a number of different types of mangrove forests. The walk terminates at a tower, 650 metres from the carpark. The return trip takes about 40 minutes at a leisurely pace. Signs on this walk provide information on the productivity of these mangrove forests.
WARNING

Crocodiles inhabit this area: attacks may cause injury or death

- Keep away from the water’s edge and do not enter the water.
- Take extreme care when launching and retrieving boats.
- Do not clean fish to leave fish waste near the water’s edge.
- Camp well away from the water.
The Irukandji Syndrome

- Inshore bathing – tropical Pacific coast
- Mild initial sting
- Delayed onset – 10-20 minutes
- Intense backache and agonising abdominal pain
- Joint pains; vomiting
- Recovery over several days
The Irukandji Syndrome

- Carukia barnesi
- Malo
- Morbakka
- Gerongia
- Alatina
- Physalia sp. [Undescribed species]
The Irukandji Syndrome

Management

• Rescue
• Diagnosis
• Vinegar
• Pain relief – narcotics
• Hospital admission
• Full convalescence
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