

Table 3 - Irukandji stings 1985/97

	Total No. stings	Recorded cases	All stings with this information (%)	Total stings (%)
TOTAL	455	452	100.0	100.0
Morning	74	399	18.5	16.3
Afternoon	325	-	81.5	71.4
Females	179	435	41.2	39.3
Males	256	-	58.8	56.3
Fine	76	103	73.8	16.7
Cloudy	27	-	26.2	5.9
Kids <10	63	63		13.8
females	33		52.4	7.3
males	30		47.6	6.6
NT stings	41	452	9.1	9.0
Qld stings	377	-	83.4	82.9
WA stings	34	-	7.5	7.5

(This table contains 53 cases from September 1996 to the end of April 1997.)

Deductions

- Afternoon stings are statistically greater than morning stings. This may be due to more people swimming in the afternoon than swim in the morning. However, comparing these percentages to those of Chironex below, they are possibly more significant.
- Males are more likely to be stung than females. However, more males swim than females.
- A sting is more likely to occur on a fine day. However, most summer days in tropical Australia have been fine in the past 10 years, despite it being in the official 'wet season'. Due to the influences of 'El Nino', the meteorological effects in the Pacific Ocean, the east coast of Australia has been experiencing drought conditions.
- Approximately 13% of children less than 10 years old are victims. This is statistically significant compared to the numbers stung by Chironex, which are double. This is because the Irukandji is a deep-water jellyfish and most people are stung whilst swimming. Less children swim than wade. Chironex is a shallow water jellyfish and many people, including children, may be stung whilst in just a few inches of water.

Table 4 - Body area stung - Irukandji stings

Stung area	Stung	Stings known (%)
Total	510	100.0
Arms	121	23.7
Trunk	98	19.2
Upper legs	36	7.1
Lower legs	116	22.7
Head and neck	6	1.2
Multiple areas	80	15.7

(NOTE: multiple area stings are also totalled in the regional stung area)
(This table contains 53 cases from September 1996 to the end of April 1997.)

Deductions

- Stings are common on the legs - some 38% of the total - similar to Chironex although it is regarded as a deep water jellyfish. Probably many of these victims are stung whilst entering the water, before they actually start to swim. These figures much lower than those previously suggested by Barnes (Kinsey 1988) who felt that the majority of stings occurred on the upper torso.
- Almost 47% of stings occur on the arms and trunk whilst victims are swimming - again, contrary to those suggested by Barnes.
- Stings on the head and neck are rarer than Chironex. These all occurred in divers, usually whilst surfacing
- Multiple stings are unusually common. As Irukandji are so small, multiple stings must be from multiple animals as they have little tentacle material. This is unlike Chironex stings where one animal may cause a sting to multiple areas because of the large tentacular material present.