



DAS GEHEIME LEBEN VON OKTOPUS, SEEPFERDCHEN UND QUALLE

DAVID LIITTSCHWAGER

ELIZABETH KOLBERT
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UND OLIVIA JUDSON



Common Moon Jellyfish in Kamo Aquarium Megatank, Tsuruoka, Yamagata, Japan.

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CHAPTER ONE

OCTOPUS

The Wonderpus Octopus

Wunderpus photogenicus

Specimen #21; male; mantle is 5/8 inches long • Caldwell Lab, Department of Integrative Biology,
University of California Berkeley, Berkeley, California, United States of America

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Southern Keeled Octopus

Octopus berrima

Specimen #7; mantle is 2 1/4 inches long • Moonlight Bay Resort, Rye, Victoria, Australia



BOTH
Short-snouted seahorse
Hippocampus hippocampus

BELOW: Specimen #44; newborn; 5/16 of an inch tall
RIGHT: Specimen #37; male; 3 inches long
Ramalhete Marine Station, Faro, Portugal

The small individual is a newborn. The larger is a near sexually mature male as evidenced by his developing brood pouch. Short-snouted seahorses were originally described by Carl Linnaeus. Both shown 5 times life size.





Scyphozoan jellyfish
Rhopilema sp.
Specimen #256; 3 1/2 inches overall length
Kamo Aquarium, Tsuruoka, Yamagata, Japan

JELLYFISH BRAINLESS BEAUTIES ELIZABETH KOLBERT

MOON JELLIES, WHICH ARE FOUND IN SHALLOW BAYS AROUND THE world, look like small, not entirely friendly ghosts.

They have translucent bells fringed with pale tentacles, and as they pulse along, it almost seems as if the water itself has come alive. At the National Aquarium in Baltimore, when visitors are invited to touch moon jellies, their first reaction is usually fear. Assured the jellies won't hurt them, the visitors roll up their sleeves and hesitantly reach into the tank.

"They're squishy!" I hear one boy squeal.

"They're cool!" a girl exclaims.

"I think they're just mesmerizing," Jennie Janssen, the assistant curator who oversees the care of the aquarium's jellyfish, tells me. "They don't have a brain, and yet they're able to survive—to thrive—generation after generation."

Scary, squishy, cool, brainless, mesmerizing—jellyfish are all of these and a whole lot more. Anatomically they're relatively simple animals; they lack not just brains, but also blood and bones, and possess only rudimentary sense organs. Despite their name, jellyfish aren't, of course, fish. In fact they aren't any one thing.

Many of the creatures lumped together as jellyfish are no more closely related than, say, horseflies are to horses. Not only do they occupy disparate

ÄTHERISCHE WUNDERWESEN DER MEERE

Oktopus, Qualle und Seepferdchen gehören zu den wundersamsten Spezies auf der Erde – und zu den am schwierigsten zu fotografierenden. Der berühmte Fotograf David Liittschwager hat Jahrzehnte damit zugebracht, spezielle Porträttechniken zu entwickeln, um die pulsierende Biolumineszenz, die durchscheinenden Körper und die ätherischen Bewegungen dieser Lebewesen einzufangen. Die Bestsellerautorinnen Elizabeth Kolbert, Jennifer Holland und Olivia Judson erklären die Biologie und die fortgeschrittenen kognitiven Fähigkeiten dieser Bewohner der Tiefe und bringen ihr unbestreitbares Charisma auf exquisite Weise zum Ausdruck.

David Liittschwager, Elizabeth Kolbert,
Jennifer Holland, Olivia Judson

**Das geheime Leben von Oktopus,
Seepferdchen und Qualle**

256 Seiten; ca. 200 Abbildungen

Format: 22,5 x 27,1 cm; Hardcover

€ [D] 36,99 € [A] 38,10 sFr. 48,90

ISBN: 978-3-86690-801-7

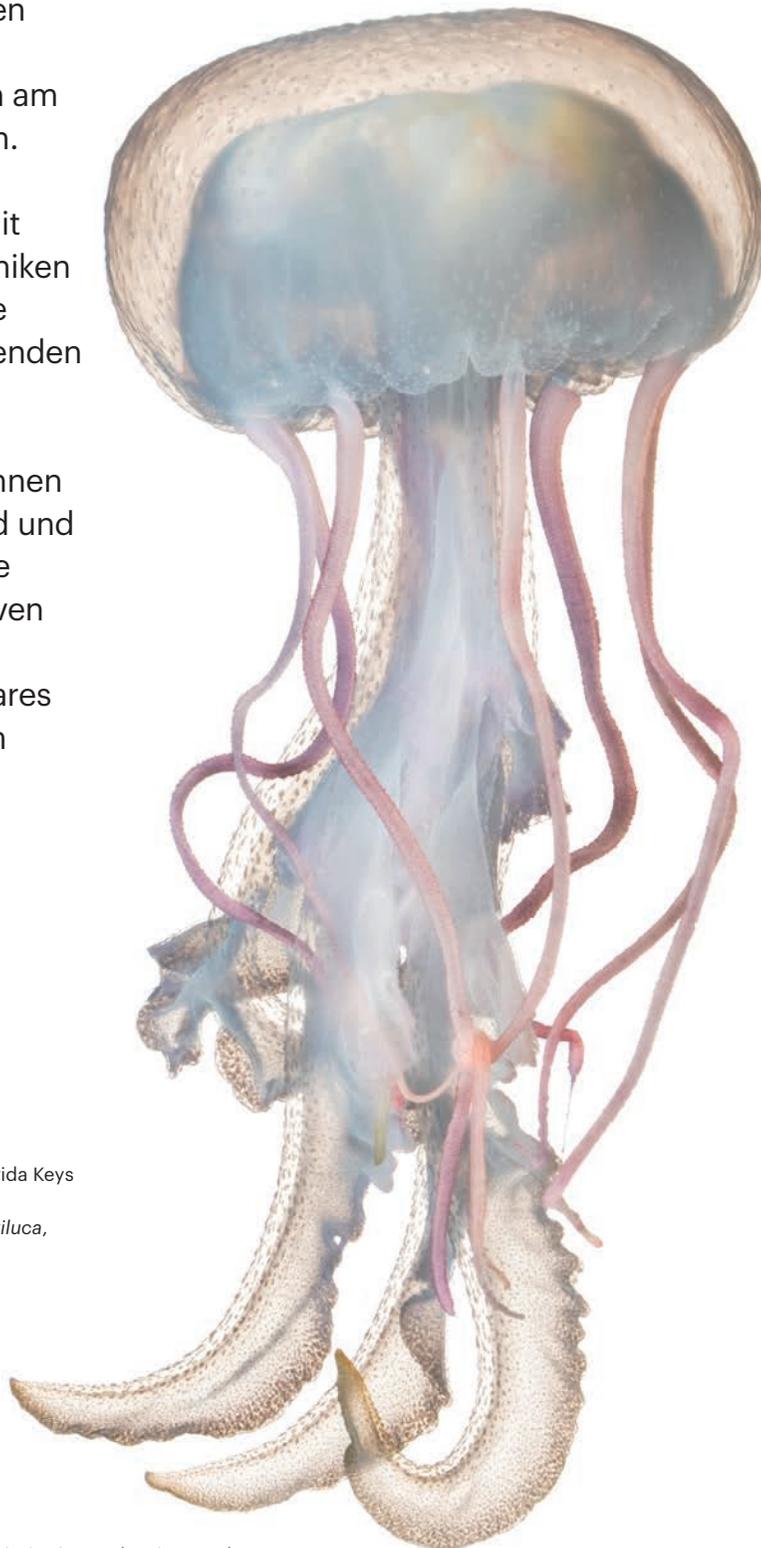
WG: 674 Auslieferungstermin: April 2022

Cover photo: Common Octopus, *Octopus vulgaris*. Florida Keys Marine Life, Big Pine Key, Florida, U.S.A.

Back cover photo: Mauve Stinger Jellyfish, *Pelagia noctiluca*, Specimen #284, bell is 2 inches across.

Kamo Aquarium, Tsuruoka, Yamagata, Japan.

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