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Picture of the day



Glaucus atlanticus, commonly known as the blue dragon, is a species of [sea slug](#) in the family [Glaucidae](#). It is pelagic and found in tropical and temperate oceans worldwide. The species floats upside down at the ocean's surface using a gas-filled sac in its stomach, with blue and silver [countershading](#) to help camouflage it from predators. It preys on venomous [cnidaria](#) such as the [Portuguese man o' war](#), storing the prey's stinging [nematocysts](#) in specialised sacs for its own defence. Handling the slug can result in a painful sting and symptoms such as nausea and [allergic contact dermatitis](#). This *G. atlanticus* sea slug, about 35 millimetres (1.4 in) in length, was found washed up on a beach at [Surfers Paradise](#) in [Queensland](#), Australia.

Photograph credit: Taro Taylor

See also

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