

freshwater jellyfish

Craspedacusta sowerbyi

FEATURES

One species of freshwater jellyfish is found in Illinois. The hydromedusa form is about the size of a penny. It is only one part of the life cycle. *Craspedacusta sowerbyi* more often exists as microscopic podocysts (dormant "resting bodies"), frustules (larvae produced asexually by budding), planulae (larvae produced sexually by the hydromedusae) or as sessile polyps that attach to stable surfaces and can form colonies consisting of two to four individuals.

BEHAVIORS

Craspedacusta sowerbyi is indigenous to the Yangtze River valley in China. These animals prefer water of good quality and no current, so they are often found in ponds, lakes and flooded quarries. They may be present in backwater lakes, too. They can go into dormancy if the water body dries up. The medusa forms usually float near the surface in good numbers when the water temperature is about 80 degrees.

TAXONOMY

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Cnidaria
Class: Hydrozoa
Order: Limnomedusae
Family: Olindiidae

ILLINOIS STATUS

common, nonnative

ILLINOIS RANGE





Photo by MDC Staff, courtesy Missouri Department of Conservation.



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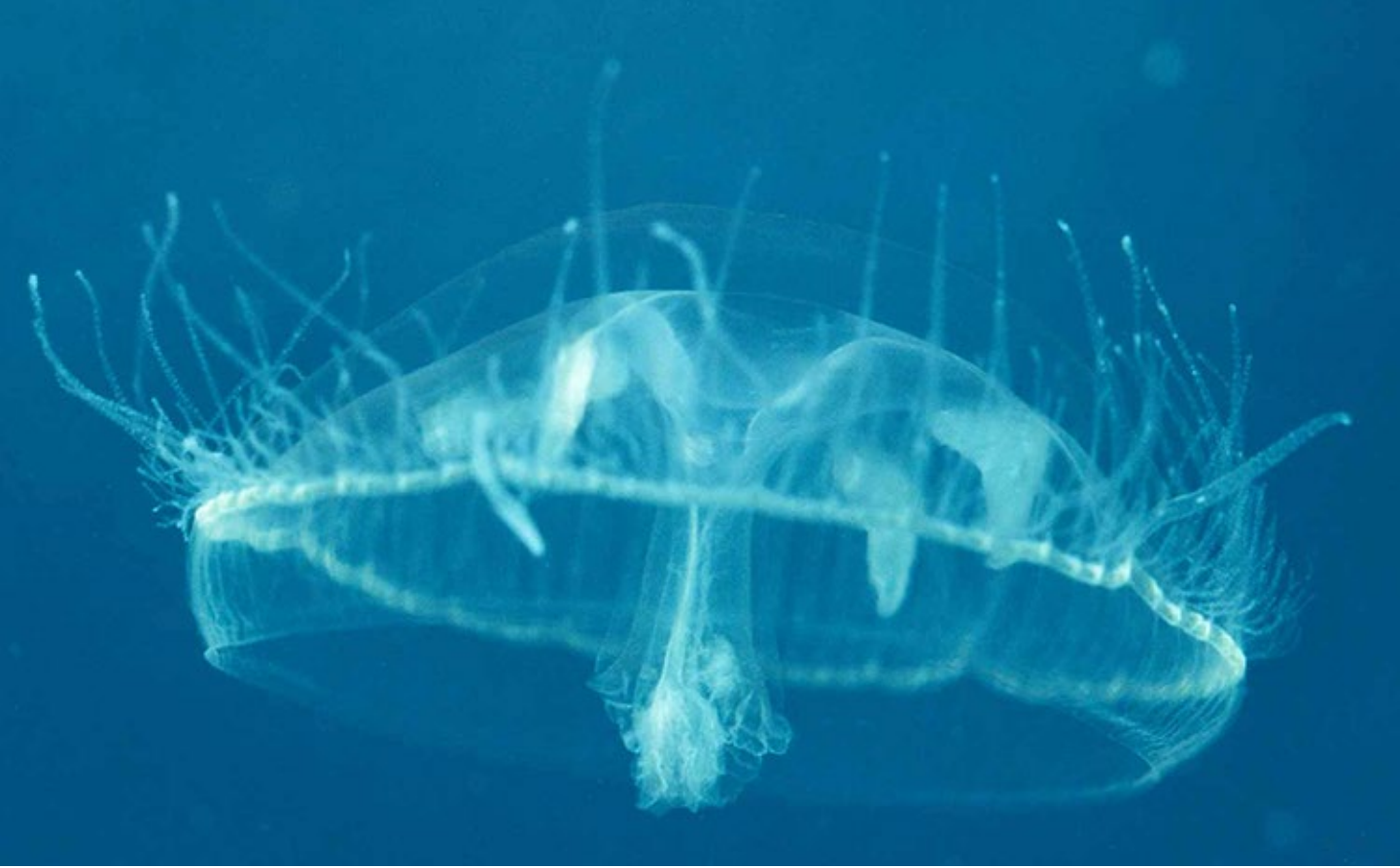


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Aquatic Habitats

bottomland forests; lakes, ponds reservoirs

Woodland Habitats

bottomland forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none