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Tropical jellyfish in Denia has 'very painful sting'

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A SWARM of 'exotic' jellyfish with a very painful sting has washed up onto the shores of Dénia (Alicante).

The creatures, which are not native to the area, are said to be highly dangerous and in the region 2,500 people were treated for their sting two summers ago.

Experts from the university of Alicante identified the jellyfish as the *Carybdea marsupialis*, which are just a few centimetres in size with a cube-shaped head.

They are normally found in Caribbean and Pacific waters, although small populations of them have been seen in the Mediterranean and the Adriatic seas since 1878.

Marine biologists, who have been studying these jellyfish since 2008 and expect to do so for a further three years, say they were alerted to their presence by the growing numbers of beachgoers having to be treated by the Red Cross on Dénia's El Raset beach.

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