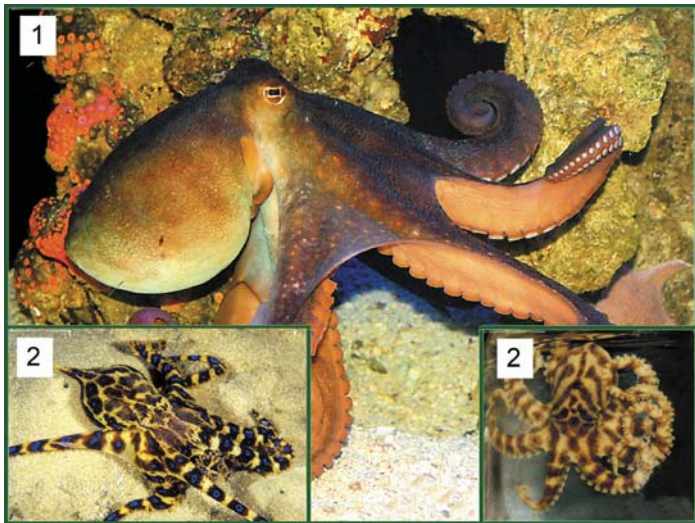


Cephalopods – Octopus

(Class: *Cephalopoda*)



The cephalopods are highly evolved and active hunters with characteristic suckered tentacles, a large water filled mantle covering internal organs, great vision, and many have specialised pigment cells that allow them to change colour rapidly.

Their *siphon* is used for “jet” propulsion and they can also produce clouds of ink to help avoid capture. This group includes octopus, squid, and cuttlefish - all of which occur within the Barwon Bluff Marine Sanctuary.

	Names	Description
1	<i>Octopus maorum</i> Maori Octopus Length to 1.2 m	The grand nocturnal predator of the reef the Maori Octopus may be seen in rockpools or on the reef edges when low tides and good torches coincide.
2	<i>Haplochlana maculosa</i> Blue Ringed Octopus Length to 12 cm	Generally a timid animal, the Blue Ringed Octopus hides in crevices during the day emerging mainly at night to hunt out crabs. The distinctive blue rings appear when the octopus feels threatened. Care should always be taken to avoid accidental encounters by always watching where hands are going in rockpools.