

Blue Ringed Octopus

The blue-ringed octopus is only about 20cm (8in) long, but it is one of the most venomous animals in the ocean. Its bite causes paralysis (loss of feeling) in the muscles and can easily kill an adult human. The bite is so deadly because the octopus has toxic saliva. They aren't as likely to run and hide as they normally would. They also will fight with other Octopus in the area to be able to keep their food and shelter to themselves. With most other species they simply ignore each other but that isn't the case here.

The blue-ringed octopus is said to hold two types of venom in its saliva: the ability to kill their prey with one type of toxin, whilst the other is used as defense. These animals have a short life span of only about 2 years. They can be found in tidal pools and reefs in the Indo-Pacific Ocean. Rarely seen in water deeper than 10ft, this little octopus lives in shallow reef waters, at the bottom of coral rock pools, and under shells.

