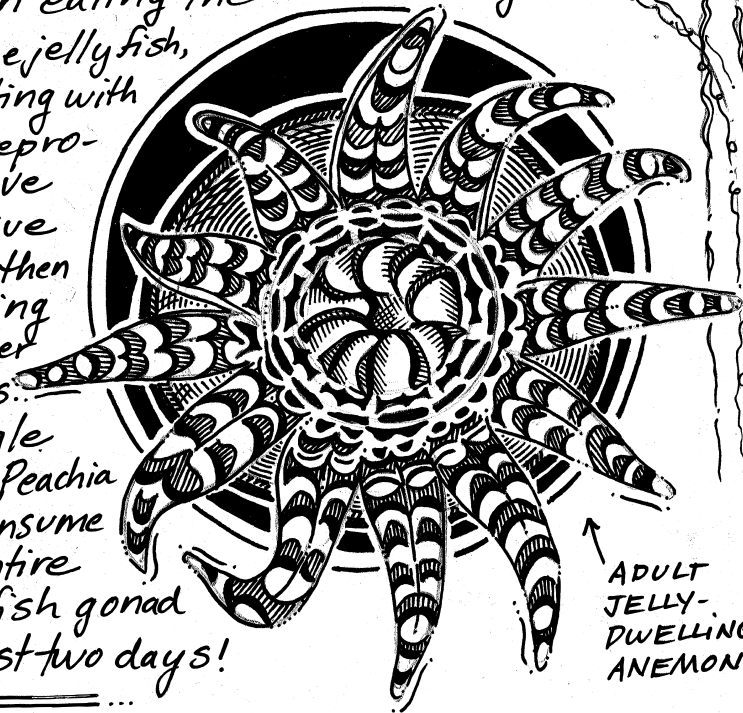


The JELLY-DWELLING ANEMONE (*Peachia quinquecapitata*) is seemingly innocuous - even beautiful - as an adult, with its twelve chevron-patterned tentacles fanning out over the seafloor, passively waiting for food to drift by. But for much of its life cycle, this anemone is a parasitic predator of unsuspecting jellyfish.

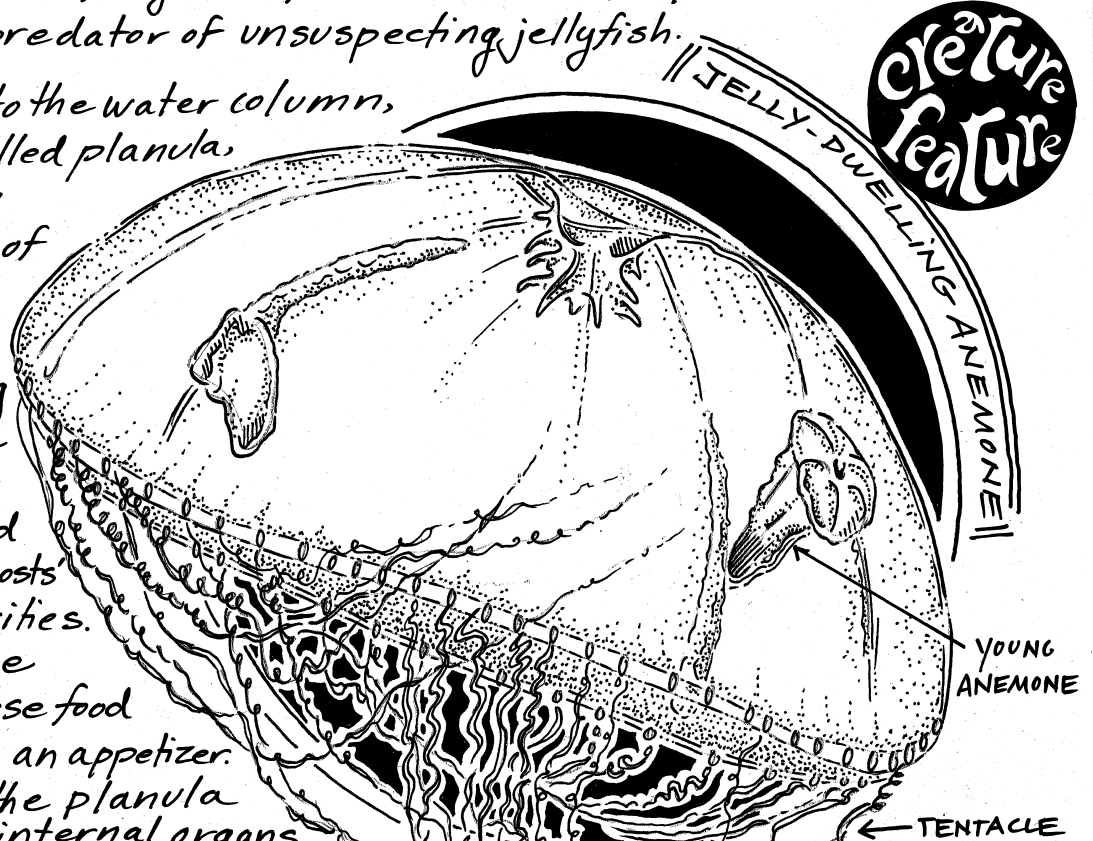
After hatching into the water column, larval *Peachia*, called planula, are gobbled up by jellyfish. Instead of getting digested, the planula bide their time, sheltering from other would-be predators and consuming the food particles in their hosts' gastrovascular cavities. Unfortunately for the jellyfish hosts, these food particles are only an appetizer.

After a few days, the planula begin eating the internal organs of the jellyfish, starting with the reproductive tissue and then moving to other organs.

A single larval *Peachia* can consume an entire jellyfish gonad in just two days!



ADULT JELLY-DWELLING ANEMONE



creature feature

After about a month of feasting and growing, juvenile anemones drop off their hosts, settling on the seafloor and burrowing into the mud to begin their independent lives.

They are common in the shallow subtidal zone of the Pacific Northwest.

These anemones likely play an important role in regulating the population size of certain jellyfish species.

