



# Bocas ARTS

Video transcript

## How to Collect Polyps and Medusae

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- In this video we are going to learn how to collect polyps and medusae of the cnidarian class hydrozoa.
- Hydroids are very abundant in shallow waters. We can collect them by snorkeling or diving.
- They live on a variety of substrates such as rocks, algae, but also a variety of animals such as crabs, hermit crabs, sponges and even fishes.
- Colonial hydrozoans can form beautiful big colonies easily visible with the naked eye, or very small and delicate ones that are very hard to spot.
- If the species you are interested in is very small, it is probably best to collect the substrate it grows on, even if doing the sampling you cannot see it.
- You will need to inspect the substrate on a stereoscope once you are in the lab.
- If you spot a big colony, collect it with a little bit of substrate and put it in a Falcon tube or a ziplock bag.
- You can prepare multiple labeled bags with tubes if you are planning to collect hydroids at different depths.
- Caprellids or other animals can feed on hydroids so once in the lab it is important to inspect the colony and eliminate them before they damage the specimens.
- Keep in mind that hydroids will be in good condition for only a few hours after collecting.
- For collecting the medusae you will need a plankton net with an end jar and a mesh of about 100 microns and a few wide mouth sample jars.
- Medusae of the class hydrozoa are extremely abundant.
- They are very small, inconspicuous and understudied.
- During the sampling, make sure that the mouth of the plankton net is underwater the at all times.
- Once you collect the plankton, empty the end jar into the sample jar and put it in a cooler.
- In the laboratory, divide the samples in glass bowls, let the plankton settle for a few minutes and sort it under a stereoscope.
- Hydromedusae can be hard to see, even under a stereoscope and especially when copepods or other taxa are very abundant.
- Hydromedusae, however, have a characteristic swimming pulse that will help you spot them.
- Once you see a medusa, isolate it from the rest of the plankton using a pipette and put it in a Petri dish with clean sea water.
- You can now try to identify it using the appropriate bibliographic sources.



easily accessible taxonomic information