



Nematocyst a Cellular Weapon

Evolution has equipped certain aquatic animals with a potent **defence mechanism** known as the **nematocyst**. //



- Nematocysts are specialized cells found in **Cnidarians** which include **jellyfish, corals, sea anemones, and hydras** that serve as potent weapons for hunting prey and defending against predators.
 - Each nematocyst contains a capsule with a coiled, thread-like tubule and toxins capable of rapid ejection with an acceleration surpassing that of a bullet.
- **Cnidarians** contain **cnidocytes** which release nematocysts when triggered by potential prey. Nematocysts pierce prey's outer layer or inject toxins into its body.
 - Toxins in nematocysts have **paralytic (paralysis) or cytolytic(destroying cells)** effects on the prey.
 - Cnidarians use a combination of toxins for predatory or defensive purposes.

