

# Octopus, Squid and Cuttlefish



Above: Dumpling squid, photo courtesy of Julian Finn. Left: Octopus (above) and a Calamari squid (below), photos courtesy of Julian Finn.



All coming from the class Cephalopoda, the animals in this group are active carnivores, and have the most advanced nervous system of the molluscs.

Octopuses live on rocky reefs in southern waters and range in size from the giant Maori octopus (up to a three-metre armspan) to the tiny pygmy octopus (three-centimetre armspan).

The largest cuttlefish in the world, the giant cuttlefish, occurs in southern waters and grows to a length of one metre. During autumn the giant cuttlefish come together in their thousands and form huge breeding aggregations to mate and lay eggs.

Squid can be found occurring in schools, and are built to move swiftly through the water by jet propulsion or by flapping their fins. They have an interesting defence mechanism where they are able to change in colour and expel ink to distract the predator while they flee.