



Strange friendships

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Produced by: SD Cinematografica

Duration: 30'

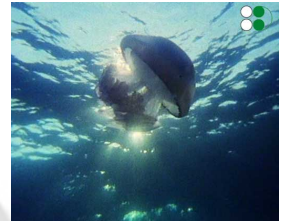
Versions: 

Format: 16 mm

The main character in this story is a jellyfish known as the *Rhizostoma pulmo*. Our cameras followed it during its apparently casual wanderings along the Mediterranean coast. We also filmed its surprising reproductive cycle, from the moment when a tiny polyp founds a new colony of thousands of individuals, until the time when, majestic and elegant, the adult sails through the water like a suspended spaceship. During our journey, the jellyfish has an unusual encounter with some crabs of the *Portunus* genus. They lie in wait for and then suddenly attack the jellyfish in nimble leaps. The quickest - and luckiest - crab install itself under the umbrella of the jellyfish and uses it as a means of transport to new territories it seeks to conquer.

The sting systems developed by the various types of jellyfish are sophisticated war-machines that defend them against aggression. The stings are triggered immediately when their tentacles are brushed by an extraneous object.

A strong friendship binds the hermit crab to the sea anemone. It is what zoologists call mutual symbiosis. The crab transports the sea anemone here and there, offering it its left-over food in return for the anemone's service of scaring predators away with its poisonous stings. The documentary analyses in detail the complicated behaviour that has developed around this friendship.



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