**Gonionemus vertens**  
Clinging jellyfish

**Threat scores**
1. **Ecological impact**
   - G. vertens reportedly has an even more potent sting in its original environment in the Seas of Okhotsk and Japan
   - Sensitive humans who come into contact with its stinging cells in that region may suffer severe allergic reactions, resulting in the worst cases in fatal anaphylactic shock
2. **Invasive potential**
   - Human assisted transport: hull fouling in polyp stage, or accidental with importation of Japanese oysters
   - It can also disperse in the hydromedusae stage in water currents and ballast water
3. **Geographic extent**
   - Locally patchy

**Geography and Habitat**
1. **Native:** Inhabits quiet waters of northern Japan and Kamchatka (Russia), and from Alaska's Aleutian Islands to northern California, common in Puget Sound.
2. **Introduced:** Virginia
3. **Habitats**
   - Marine, circumboreal along the coast in northern waters, but distribution is localized.

**Invasion Pathways**
1. Stocking in open water - oyster farming
2. Natural spread - water currents
3. Hull/Surface Fouling
4. Ballast water and sediments

**Non-Native Locations**
1. 41- Virginian

**Sources**