

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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### **Bullrout envenomation**

I read with interest Dr FitzGerald's recent article on bullrout envenomation<sup>1</sup>. As he summarised in his article, bullrout envenomation is relatively benign. My concern is that envenomation by the salt water stonefish, which can be found in estuaries and river mouths, has identical symptoms but is considerably more venomous.

In an article I published in 1990, I discussed a case of stonefish envenomation in Townsville, where the patient required two ampoules of antivenom<sup>2</sup>.

Although accepting the fact that the bullrout is found in fresh water, I believe it is important to point out that if there does

not seem to be improvement with the treatment mentioned in Dr FitzGerald's article, the patient may have been envenomated by a salt water stonefish, which may have more serious consequences.

### **References**

1. FitzGerald GJ. Analysis of 24 cases of bullrout envenomation. *Emergency Medicine* 1993;5:199-200
2. Little M. Stonefish (*Synanceia* species) sting. *Emergency Medicine* 1990;2:5

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