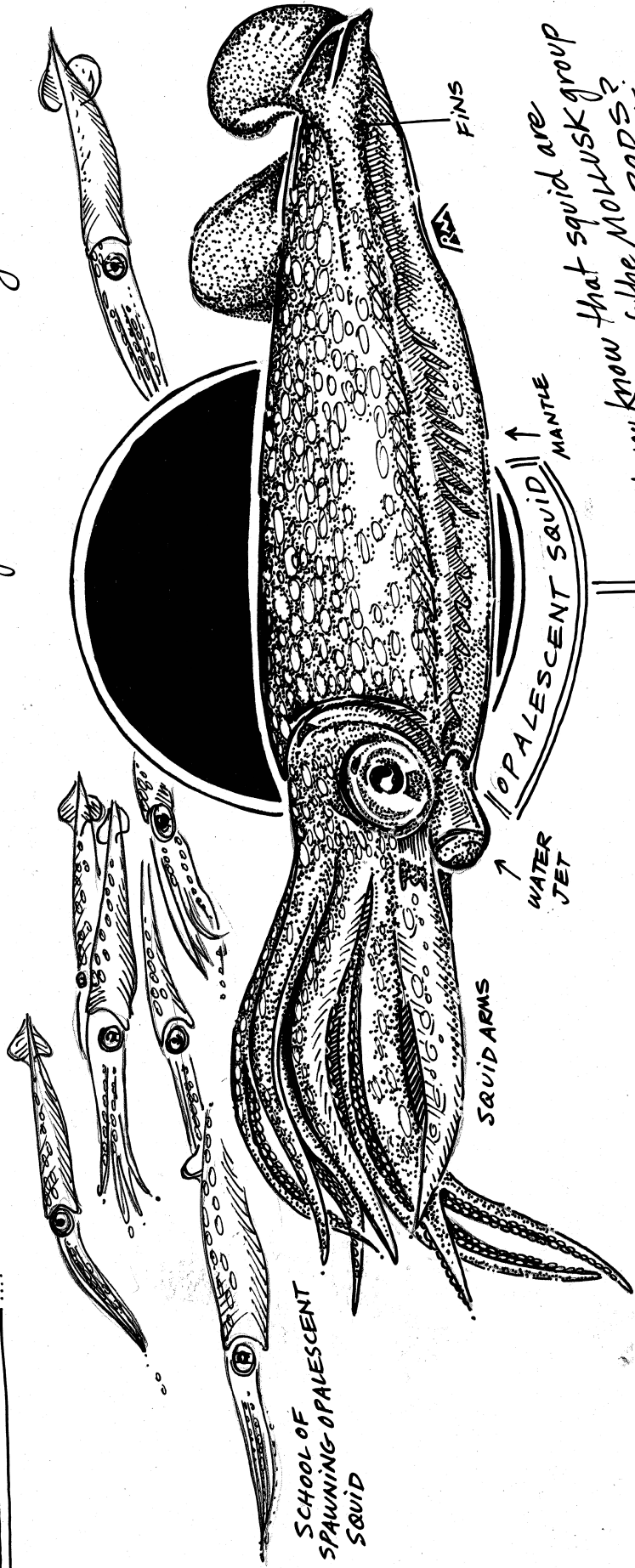


Who doesn't love squid?! This is the wonderfully weird OPALESCENT SQUID (*Doryteuthis opalescens*), also known as the market squid. What makes it wonderful? So many things! This squid can change color. Depending on its mood and the need for camouflage, it can shift from translucent white to speckled brown to gold, using special skin cells called chromatophores. This squid even changes to dark red or brown when it's excited, frightened, or feeding.



What makes this squid weird? How about the fact that females insert their egg capsules into the sand and that groups of these capsules can extend into beds that cover acres over the ocean floor? After laying their eggs, all the adult squid die and get eaten by a variety of predators. The eggs, however, carry toxins that protect them from hungry hunters.

Did you know that squid are members of the MOLLUSK group known as CEPHALOPODS?



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