

GIANT PRICKLEBACK

CREATURE 6

N**LARGE****ANIMAL****AQUATIC**

Created by VaranSL

Perception +11; low-light vision

Skills Acrobatics +12, Athletics +15

Str +5, **Dex** +2, **Con** +5, **Int** -5, **Wis** +3, **Cha** +0

AC 22; **Fort** +17, **Ref** +12, **Will** +13

HP 119

Prickly Body Anyone who hits the prickleback with a melee unarmed attack or a non-reach melee weapon must succeed at a DC 23 Reflex save or be pierced by a spine, taking 1d4 piercing damage. On a critical failure, they take double damage and 1d6 persistent bleed damage.

Sudden Inflation 🌀 If the prickleback is reduced to 30 hit points or below, it can immediately inflate its body. Each creature within 5 feet of its space must succeed at a basic DC 23 Reflex save or take 5d4 piercing damage. The prickleback then rises 40 feet towards the surface of the water every round until it reaches the surface. When it reaches the surface, or if it is already at the surface, it stays there for 1d6 minutes before it can deflate. While inflated, its swim speed is reduced to 5 feet.

Speed swim 25 feet

Melee ♦ bite +17 [+13/+9] (agile), **Damage** 2d6+9 piercing

Ranged ♦ spike +17 [+12/+7] (range 20 feet), **Damage** 2d4+9 piercing plus 1d6 persistent bleed

Spike Burst ♦♦ The prickleback suddenly expands, causing spikes all over its body to be launched. All creatures within 20 feet, taking 10d4 piercing damage (basic DC 23 Reflex save). A creature that fails the save also takes 1d6 persistent bleed damage, or double persistent bleed damage on a critical failure. The prickleback can't use Spike Burst again for 1d4 rounds.

The giant prickleback is a prickly fish that infests warm waters. It is covered in spikes and is rather sluggish despite how aggressive it is to others. It has been known to eat humanoids, though it'll eat anything that is smaller than it is. Most people find these creatures to be more trouble than they are worth and avoid them as much as possible.

These fish, when faced with mortal peril, will suddenly inflate themselves, shooting themselves toward the surface. This expanded size makes them far harder to eat, as their spikes are protruding even further from their bodies, and most predators will leave them alone, looking for a less painful meal. If a prickleback has inflated itself, they can easily be spotted from above the water as their large bulk bobs halfway out of the water. Sailors will avoid these bobbing pricklebacks, thinking they are a bad omen.