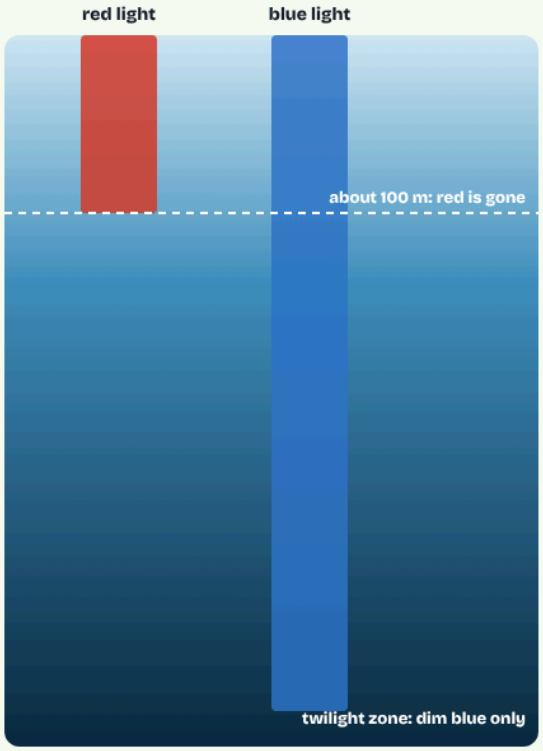
That is why

Why do see-through animals have red stomachs?

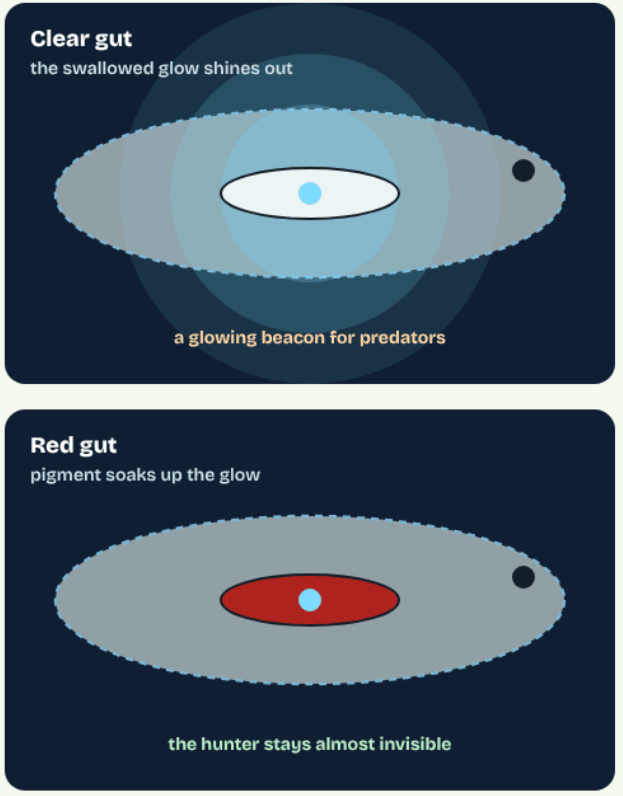
A dark gut traps the glow of swallowed prey, and red looks black where no red light reaches.

A Red light goes first



In blue light, a red stomach has no red to reflect, so it looks black.

B The glowing lunch problem



Example: the bloody-belly comb jelly and its blood-red stomach.

C Parts that can't be clear

1 Eyes

Seeing means absorbing light, so eyes stay dark. Cystisoma spreads its retina into thin dots.

2 Guts

Kept dark with red or black pigment to hide the glow.

3 Shiny skin

Some clear crustaceans wear tiny beads, 50 to 300 nm wide, cutting reflection up to 250-fold.

Clear body, dark gut, faint eyes: each part removes one clue.

Even dinner has to stay hidden in the deep.

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