

FROM THE MARCH COVER

Puffer Fish

Puffer Fish are the second most poisonous vertebrate on earth (the first one is golden dart Frog). The meat of some species is a delicacy in both Japan (as *fugu*) and Korea (as *bok-uh*) but the problem is that the skin and certain organs of many puffer fish are very poisonous to humans.

This puffy fish produce rapid and violent death...

Puffers poisoning causes deadening of the tongue and lips, dizziness, vomiting, rapid heart rate, difficulty breathing, and muscle paralysis. Victims die

from suffocation as diaphragm muscles are paralyzed. Most of the victims die after four to 24 hours. There is no known antidote, Most deaths from

fugu happen when untrained people catch and prepare the fish.

Statistics show that there were 20 to 44 incidents of *fugu* poisoning per year between 1996 and 2006 in all of Japan and up to six inci-

dents per year led to death. Since Fugus poison can cause near instantaneous death, only licensed chefs are allowed to prepare it.

