

# Indo-Pacific humpbacked dolphin washed ashore at Karwar, Karnataka

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A dead dolphin was washed ashore at Aligadda beach, Karwar on 1.7.2016. From the external characters it was identified as Indo-Pacific humpbacked dolphin, *Sousa chinensis*. The specimen was a male, 233 cm in total length and weighed 110 kg. The animal had scratches on the skin in the head portion. Detailed morphometric measurements (in cm) of the specimen are listed below:

Total length (tip of upper jaw to deepest part of notch between flukes) : 233

Length (tip of upper jaw to centre of eye): 45

Length of snout (tip of upper jaw to apex of melon): 20.5

Length of gape (tip of upper jaw to angle of gape) : 37

Length (tip of upper jaw to external auditory meatus) : 50

Centre of eye to external auditory meatus (direct): 8

Centre of eye to angle of gape (direct) : 7

Centre of eye to centre of blowhole (direct) : 20

Length (tip of upper jaw to blow hole along midline): 41

Length (tip of upper jaw to anterior insertion of flipper) : 61

Length (tip of upper jaw to tip of dorsal fin) : 143

Length (tip of upper jaw to mid point of umbilicus): 116

Length (tip of upper jaw to mid point of genital aperture) : 131

Length (tip of upper jaw to centre of anus) : 160

Girth (on a transverse plane intersecting axilla) : 100

Girth (on a transverse plane intersecting the anus): 80

Length of flipper (Anterior insertion to tip) : 37

Length of flipper (Axilla to tip) : 25

Width of flipper (Maximum) : 15

Height of dorsal fin (Fin tip to base) : 19

Width of flukes (Tip to tip) : 59

Distance from nearest point on anterior border of flukes to notch:19

Number of teeth (Upper jaw): 34+34

Number of teeth (Lower jaw): 34+34



Fig. 1. Humpbacked dolphin stranded at Karwar

Two instances of the stranding of humpbacked dolphins have been reported from Aligadda beach, Karwar during October 2015 and March 2016. The present stranding is the third one in the same area within a short period.