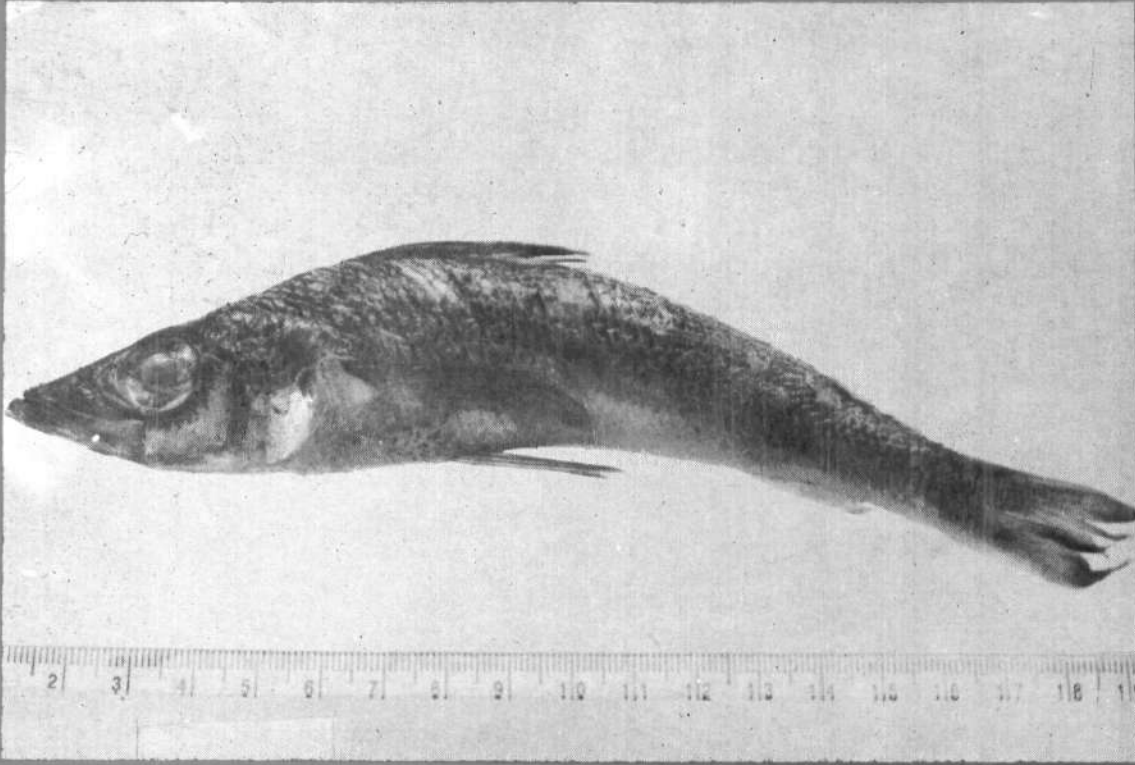




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केन्द्रीय समुद्री मात्स्यकी अनुसंधान संस्थान कोचिन, भारत CENTRAL MARINE FISHERIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE COCHIN, INDIA

भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद
INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

Baleen whale and a porpoise stranded at Ullal, near Mangalore*

On 14-9-95 fishermen at Ullal noticed the carcass of a whale floating in the inshore waters. It was reported that the carcass was sighted off Manjeswar (15 km south of Mangalore) on the previous day and got

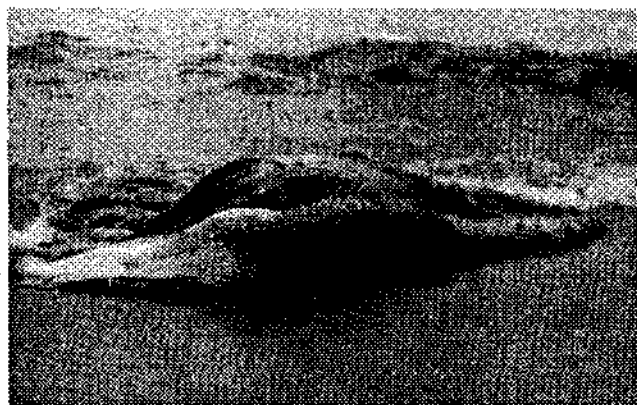


Fig. 1. Close view of trunk portion of stranded Baleen whale *Balaenoptera*.

drifted to the Ullal coast. The carcass was in a highly decomposed state. The anterior portion upto the belly (trunk) of the animal got separated and was found floating in the sea (Fig. 1). The posterior portion consisting of tail (caudal fluke) was found floating 300 m away from the main trunk portion. The ventral grooves were very prominent. A few vertebrae, lower jaw bones and dorsal fin were seen scattered on the beach.

The whale measured approximately 12 m. The presence of prominent vertical grooves on the belly and short and triangular dorsal fin (length 80 cm, height 42 cm and base 48 cm) suggest that the stranded



Fig. 2. Photograph showing porpoise *N. phocaenoides* washed ashore at Ullal beach.

mammal was a Baleen whale belonging to the genus *Balaenoptera*.

Incidentally a young dead porpoise, *Neophocaenoides phocaenoides* (Fig. 2) of 93 cm length was found washed ashore near the spot where the carcass of whale was found. This animal was also in a highly putrified state.

*Reported by C. Muthiah, Mangalore Research Centre of CMFRI, Mangalore - 575 001.