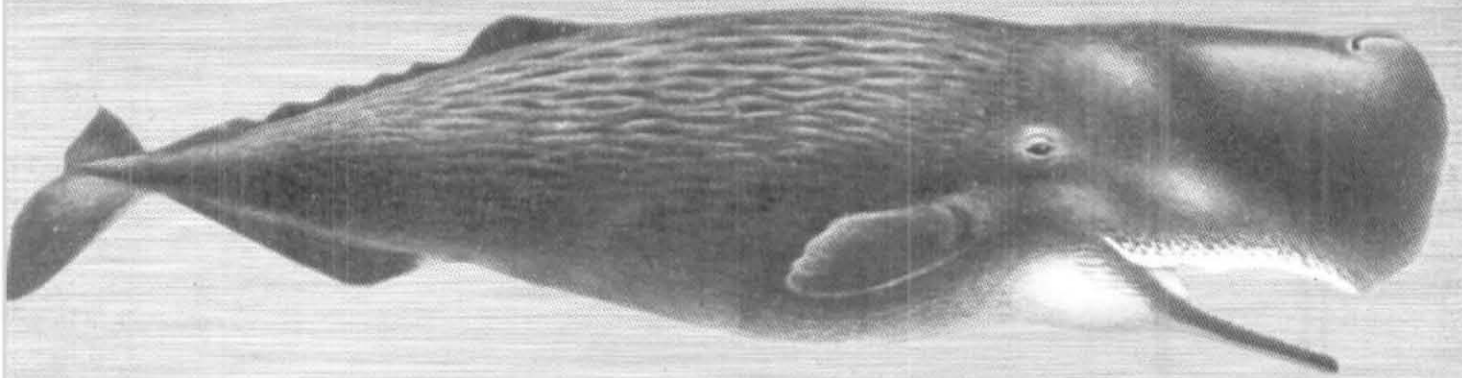




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On the landing of black porpoise *Neophocaena phocaenoides* at Sangumal (Palk Bay) near Rameswaram

Finless black porpoises are common in the nearshore waters and dead ones were washed ashore on many occasions along the Palk Bay coast around Mandapam and Rameswaram. On 31.01.2001, a female black porpoise, *Neophocaena phocaenoides* (Fig. 1) was landed at Sangumal (Palk Bay) near Rameswaram. Its total length and weight were 150 cm and 40 kg respectively. In the neck region the flesh was eaten by stray dogs. The porpoise was caught by gill net locally called as Vali Valai, operated off Rameswaram in the Palk Bay at a depth of 14 to 18 m. The morphometric measurements of the specimen are given in Table 1.



Fig. 1. The black porpoise landed at Sangumal (Palk Bay) near Rameswaram

Table 1. The morphometric measurements (in cm) of the black porpoise *Neophocaena phocaenoides*

Date of observation	31.01.2001
Total length	
(snout to notch of caudal flukes)	150
Length from tip of snout to blow hole	15
Length from tip of snout to centre of eye	12
Length from tip of snout to anterior insertion of flipper	33
Length from tip of snout to centre of anus	110
Notch of fluke to centre of anus	42
Length of fluke on outer curvature	29
Length of fluke on inner curvature	20
Distance between extremities of fluke	28
Width at insertion of fluke	9
Length of flipper along curve of lower border	20
Length of flipper from anterior insertion to tip	26
Greatest width of flipper	11
Depth of body at anal region	46
Depth of body at origin of eye	21
Length from tip of lower jaw to centre of anus	115
length of upper jaw	7
Length of lower jaw	7
Diameter of eye	2
Number of teeth on one side of upper jaw	15
Number of teeth on one side of lower jaw	15
Sex	Female
Weight	40 kg

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