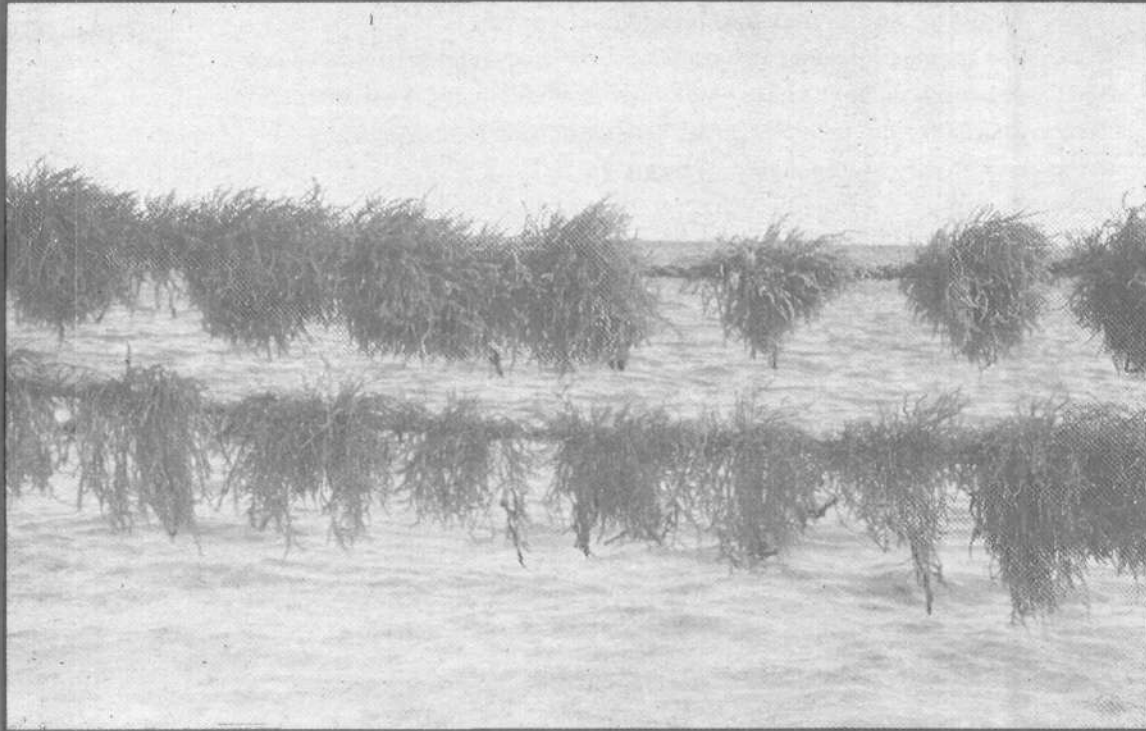




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केन्द्रीय समुद्री मात्स्यकी अनुसंधान संस्थान कोचिन, भारत CENTRAL MARINE FISHERIES RESEARCH INSTITUTE COCHIN, INDIA

भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद
INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

931 On a bottlenose dolphin, washed ashore at Kanyakumari

A dead dolphin was washed ashore at Kanyakumari (Tamil Nadu) on 23-2-1999 (Fig.1). From the external characters, mainly the number of teeth, it was identified as bottlenose dolphin, *Tursiops truncatus aduncus* Ehrenberg. This dolphin was a female of 212 cm total length and 120 kg weight, having fresh external wounds and blood stains on its body which suggested of a fatal encounter or accident such as shark attack or hitting against boat. Its morphometric and meristic characteristics are given in Table 1. This species has been reported in recent years from Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal.

TABLE 1. Morphometric measurements (in cm) and other details of *Tursiops truncatus aduncus* Ehrenberg, washed ashore at Kanyakumari

Date of observation	23-2-1999
Total length (snout to notch of caudal flukes)	212.0
Tip of snout to blowhole	34.5
Tip of snout to centre of eye	34.0
Tip of snout to anterior insertion of flipper	52.5
Tip of snout to centre of anus	148.0
Notch of fluke to posterior end of dorsal fin	88.0
Notch of fluke to centre of anus	64.0
Length of fluke on outer curvature	66.0
Length of fluke on inner curvature	53.0
Distance between extremities of fluke	51.0
Width at insertion of fluke	14.0
Length of dorsal fin base	33.0
Vertical height of dorsal fin	24.5
Length of flipper from anterior insertion to tip	35.5
Length of flipper along curve of lower border	26.0
Greatest width of flipper	13.5
Depth of body at anal region	26.5
Depth of body at origin of flipper	29.5
Depth of body at origin of dorsal	40.0
Depth of body in region of eye	24.5
Tip of lower jaw to centre of anus	149.5
Length of upper jaw	26.5
Length of lower jaw	28.0
Diameter of eye	1.4
Number of teeth on one side of upper jaw	25
Number of teeth on one side of lower jaw	24
Sex	Female
Weight	120 kg



Fig. 1. The bottlenose dolphin, *Tursiops truncatus aduncus*, washed ashore at Kanyakumari on 23-2-1999.

Reported by Jacob Jerold Joel, Vizhinjam Research Centre of CMFRI, Vizhinjam - 695 521, India and I. P. Ebenezer, Kanyakumari Field Centre of CMFRI, Kanyakumari - 629 702, India.
