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RESEARCH INSTITUTE
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भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद
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**964 On a black porpoise
Neophocaena phocaenoides
Cuvier landed in a dol net at
Seemar, Gujarat**

A Black porpoise identified as *Neophocaena phocaenoides* Cuvier was caught in a dol net operating off Seemar bunder, Gujarat (Fig. 1). The morphometric measurements of the animal are given below:-

Characters	Dimensions
Total length	88.5cm
Length from tip of snout to blowhole	13.5cm
Length from tip of snout to centre of eye	11cm
Length from tip of snout to anterior insertion of flipper	22cm
Length from tip of snout to centre of anus	58.5cm
Length from notch of flukes to centre of anus	26.7cm
Length of the fluke on the outer curvature	17.5cm
Length of the fluke on the inner curvature	13.4cm
Distance between the fluke extremities	29.3cm
Width at insertion of flukes	5.6cm
Length of flipper from anterior insertion to tip	21cm
Length of flipper along the curve of lower border	14.3cm
Greatest width of flipper	7.3cm
Depth of body at anal region	14.5cm
Depth of body at origin of flipper	18.5cm
Depth of body in the region of the eye	16cm
Length from tip of the lower jaw to the centre of anus	58cm

Length of lower jaw	6.9cm
Length of upper jaw	6.7cm
Diameter of the eye (Horizontal)	1.5cm
Diameter of the eye (Vertical)	0.5cm
Distance between genital opening and anus	2cm
Total number of teeth on one side of lower jaw	18
Total number of teeth on one side of upper jaw	15
Sex	Male
Weight	14 kg

The specimen was a young male, the tissues and the blood were still fresh and the volume of blood was very high. Pathologically, the animal showed

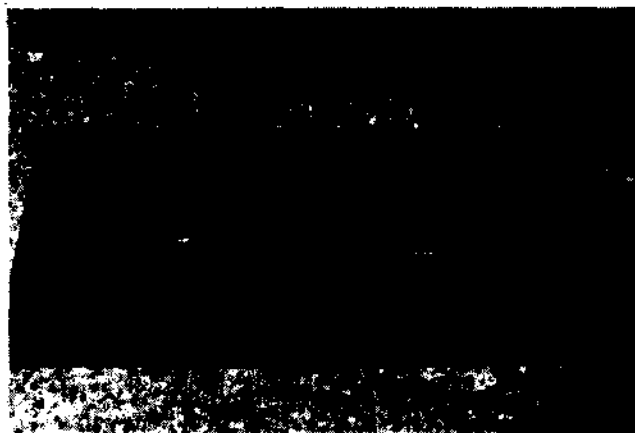


Fig. 1 *Neopocaena phocaenoides*

clear signs of asphyxiation; both the lungs were shrunken. The epiglottis was muscular and formed a beak-like structure. The length of the gut (from oesophagus to anus) was 525 cm. The stomach was small, globular and flaccid, followed by a thicker portion with inner folds and valvular constriction. The small intestine measuring 495 cm in length had intermittent muscular fold linings on the inner side. The gut contents were mostly in a semi-digested state and comprised of small fishes and crustaceans. The kidneys appeared like bunch of grapes covered by a membrane. The urinary bladder was found to extend like a small balloon between the alimentary sheath. Its tip was pointed and it measured 14 cm in total length. The testicles were located embedded in lateral flaps of the body wall postero-ventrally. The urino-genital opening was found to be separated from the anus by a thick cartilage.

The animal is locally called "Gonio". Local enquiry revealed that though there is no regular or targeted fishery for dolphins or porpoises, there have been stray occurrences of these mammals in dol nets operated in the area. The nets (16m long) are usually operated at a depth of 8m. The locals utilise the oil extracted from the skin and liver of these animals for application on their wooden boats.

Reported by: Joe K. Kizhakudan and Shoba Joe Kizhakudan, V.R.C. of C.M.F.R.I. Veraval.