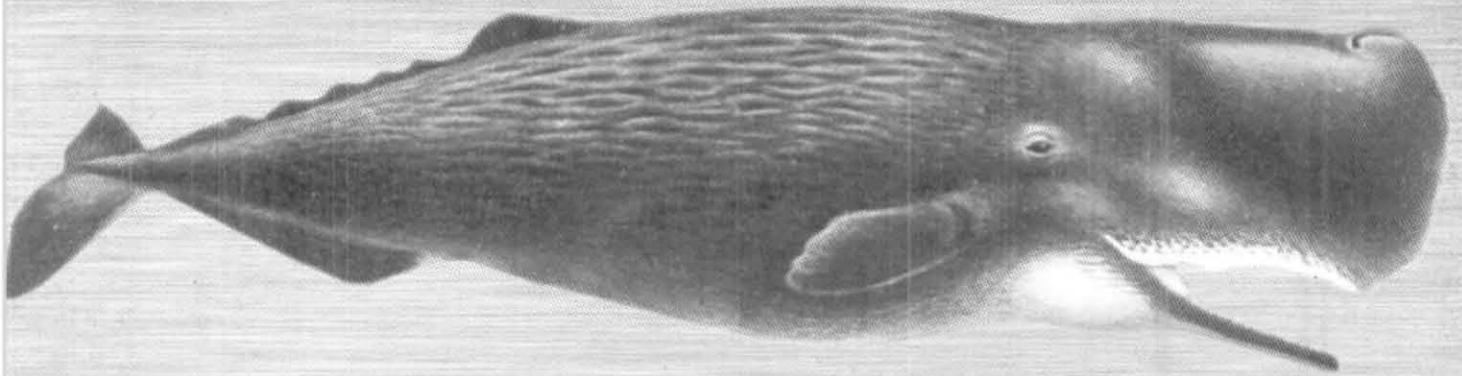




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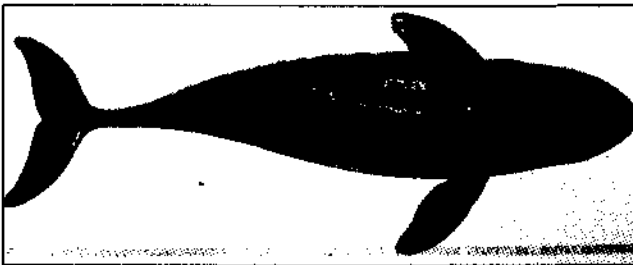
COCHIN, INDIA

(INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH)

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On a black porpoise *Neophocaena phocaenoides*, G. Cuvier landed in a dol net at Seemar, Gujarat

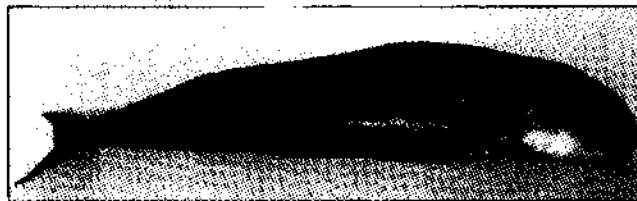
A black porpoise, *Neophocaena phocaenoides* G. Cuvier was caught in a dol net operating off Seemar bunder, Gujarat. The animal is locally called "Gonio." Local enquiry revealed that though there is no regular or targeted fishery for dolphins or porpoises, there have been stray occurrences of these mammals being captured by dol nets operated in the area. The nets (16 m long) are usually operated at a depth of 8 m. The locals utilise the oil extracted from these animals for application on their wooden boats. The morphometric measurements of the animal are listed in Table 1.



Neophocaena phocaenoides - dorsal view

Internal anatomy : The dead specimen was a young male. The tissues and blood were still fresh and the volume of blood was very high. Pathologically, the animal showed clear signs of asphyxiation; both the lungs were swollen with peritoneal walls wrinkled.

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 construction. The small intestine measuring 495 cm in length had folded intermittent muscular linings on the inner



Neophocaena phocaenoides - lateral view

Table 1. Morphometric measurements of *Neophocaena phocaenoides* landed at seemar

Characters	Dimension (cm)
Total length	88.5
Length from tip of snout to blowhole	13.5
Length from tip of snout to centre of eye	11
Length from tip of snout to anterior insertion of flipper	22
Length from tip of snout to centre of anus	58.5
Length from notch of flukes to centre of anus	26.5
Length of the fluke on the outer curvature	17.5
Length of the fluke on the inner curvature	13.4
Distance between the fluke extremities	29.3
Width at insertion of flukes	5.6
Length of flipper from anterior insertion to tip	21
Length of flipper along the curve of lower border	14.3
Greatest width of flipper	7.3
Depth of body at anal region	14.5
Depth of body at origin of flipper	18.5
Depth of body in the region of eye	16
Length from tip of the lower jaw to the centre of anus	58
Length of lower jaw	6.9
Length of upper jaw	6.7
Diameter of the eye (Horizontal)	1.5
Diameter of the eye (Vertical)	0.5
Distance between genital opening and anus	2
Total number of teeth on one side of lower jaw	18
Total number of teeth on one side of upper jaw	15
Weight (kg)	14

side. The gut contents were mostly in a semidigested state and comprised of small fishes and crustaceans. The kidneys appeared like a bunch of grapes covered by a membrane. The urinary bladder was found to extend like a small balloon between the alimentary canal and penis. The penis was situated inside a thick muscular sheath. Its tip was pointed and measured 14 cm in total length. The testicles were located embedded in lateral flaps of the body wall posteroventrally. The urino-genital opening was separated from the anus by a thick cartilage.

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