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# Sea cow, washed ashore at Pachai patti, Gulf of Mannar

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On 03/10/2007, a dead sea cow *Dugong dugon* (Muller) was washed ashore at Pachai patti (Gulf of Mannar) near Dhanuskodi (Fig. 1). The forest officials buried the specimen since it was in a highly decomposed state. On enquiry, it is understood that the specimen had a deep cut at the caudal region. This deep cut might have been caused by a boat propeller leading to the death of the animal. The morphometric measurements and photograph collected from the forest official is given in the table.

Table 1. Morphometric measurements (cm.) of sea cow *Dugong dugon*

Tip of snout to end of caudal fluke	275
Tip of snout to origin of eye	32
Length of flipper along the outer margin	33.5
Greatest width of the body	82
Maximum circumference of body	164
Approximate weight (kg)	250



Fig. 1. *Dugong dugon* washed ashore at Pachai patti, Gulf of Mannar