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ON THE LANDING OF A YOUNG BOTTLE-NOSE DOLPHIN AT VISAKHAPATNAM*

A young bottle-nose dolphin *Tursiops truncatus aduncus* was caught in a shrimp trawl operated from *Sona* boat at about 30 m depth off Gopalpur and was landed at Visakhapatnam Fisheries Harbour on 13th April 1992. The following observations were made of the specimen.

The calf with no teeth was a female of 1.07 m total length and 10.5 kg weight. The length at birth of this species is reported to be 1.0 to 1.2 m (James & Lal Mohan, 1987). The stomach

was almost empty, except for a small quantity of yellowish paste like substance. The specimen was dark grey above and greyish white below (Fig. 1). The morphometric measurements are given in the table.

The specimen was taken away by the fishermen for consumption. Dolphin meat when used as bait for hooks in 'Jamuthadu' — a line with about 1000 to 1500 hooks — is said to yield very good catches of sharks.



Fig. 1. The young bottle-nose dolphin landed at Visakhapatnam Fisheries Harbour.

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TABLE 1. *The morphological measurements (cm*) of the female Tursiops truncatus aduncus caught off Gopalpur on 13.4.1992*

Tip of two upper jaw to deepest part of fluke notch	106.5
" to centre of anus	70.0
" to centre of genital slit	66.0
" to end of ventral grooves	34.0
" to top of dorsal fin	50.5
" to anterior insertion of flipper (rt)	27.5
" to centre of blow hole	18.0
" to centre of eye	18.6
Eye diameter	1.1
Diameter of blow hole	1.6
Cleft of mouth	15.0
Distance between eye to cleft of the mouth	3.5
" " genital slit to anus	1.8
" " eye to blow hole	9.0

Flipper length	
(a) Tip to anterior insertion	22.0
(b) Tip to posterior insertion	14.5
(c) Flipper base	6.5
d) Flipper height	9.5
Anterior margin of dorsal fin	10.0
Posterior margin of dorsal fin	13.5
Dorsal fin base	17.2
Dorsal fin height	9.5
Fluke span	22.0
Notch of fluke to centre of anus	33.5
Notch of fluke to centre of genital slit	36.5
Girth at anus	12.0
Girth at flippers	20.4
Length from the origin of flipper to notch of the fluke	75.3

* Point to point

The weights (g) of the following internal organs were taken : Liver - 233.5, Heart - 110, Kidneys - 110 and rest of the viscera - 560. The small and large intestine were respectively about 790 cm and 280 cm long.