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REPORT ON BALEEN WHALE STRANDED ALONG MALLIPATINAM COAST, TANJORE DISTRICT *

A whale was reported to have been washed ashore on 18-5-'85 at 1530 hours along Pudupatinam sea shore near Adhiramapatinam ($10^{\circ} 16'N$ latitude; $79^{\circ} 19'E$ longitude). It was possible to reach the place only on 28th as the information reached rather late.

*Reported by C. Kasinathan, Regional Centre of C.M.F.R.I., Mandapam Camp.

At the time of the inspection most of the flesh had been either removed or in a semi putrified condition. Even on the day of stranding, the fishermen reported that the animal was badly wounded and in a decaying condition. The presence of baleen plates indicated that it was a species of *Balaenoptera* (Baleen whale). The approximate weight of the whale stranded was estimated as 3,000 kg. The animal (snout to tip of caudal) measured 930 cm with a maximum of 151 cm of body height and 112 cm depth near the head region.

