

Sperm whale *Physeter macrocephalus* washed ashore at Devbagh, Karnataka

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A female sperm whale *Physeter macrocephalus* was stranded and washed ashore in dead condition,

at Devbagh, 10 km away from Karwar on 18.9.2009. According to fishermen, the whale was noticed on

17.9.2009 around 1730 hrs struggling to escape from the shallow waters. The total length of the whale was 990 cm with an approximate weight of 12 t. The whale was suspected to be injured due to collision with



Fig. 1. The sperm whale *Physeter macrocephalus* stranded at Devbagh, Karnataka

a ship as evidenced by profuse bleeding from the blow-hole. No external injury was observed. This is the second record of sperm whale stranding at Karwar. Earlier, a sperm whale was found stranded at Karwar on 23.06.1972. The morphometric measurements of the sperm whale recorded are as follows:

Parameters	Dimensions (cm)
Total length	990
Blow-hole length	36
Lower jaw	138
Upper jaw	160
Length of fluke from median notch	171
Length of flipper	54