

Olive ridley turtle *Lepidochelys olivacea* (Eschscholtz, 1829) washed ashore at Visakhapatnam

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A dead Olive ridley turtle was found washed ashore near Bheemunipatnam, about 20- 25 km south of Visakhapatnam city, on 19th November 2012. An injury mark was present on the head of the specimen (Fig.1) and it is suspected that death was caused by incidental capture and drowning. It is a matter of concern since Olive ridley turtle are endangered and are protected as per various

international agreements. They are categorized as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List (IUCN, 2010) and are included in Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. They are listed in Annexure II of the SPAW (a Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife), Appendix I of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna) and Appendices I



Fig. 1. Olive ridley turtle stranded at Visakhapatnam and II of the Convention on Migratory Species (the Bonn Convention). The curve carapace length and weight of the turtle were 70 cm and 35-40 kg respectively. Details of morphometric measurement recorded are as follows:

Table 1. Morphometric measurement (in cm) of Olive ridley turtle

Characters	Measurements
Total length	98
Curved carapace length	70
Curved carapace width	67
Plastron length	57
Plastron width	55
Head length	28
No. of prefrontal scutes	2 pair
No. of precentral scutes	1
No. of central (neural) scutes	5
No. of lateral (coastal)scutes	7
No. of marginal scutes	12
No. of postcentral scutes	1
No. of claws on flipper	1
Tail length	18 cm
Inframarginal scutes with pores	4