

Bryde's whale washed ashore in Andhra Pradesh

A Bryde's whale (*Balaenoptera edeni*) was found washed ashore at Meghavaram village (18.6024° N, 84.1935° E), in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh on 27th July 2024. Based on observation and morphometric measurements taken by ICAR-CMFRI

survey personnel, the whale was a male, measuring 10.6 m in total length with total weight estimated to be between 3-5 tonnes. The body of the whale had multiple bruises along the right side of belly as well as some cuts in the caudal area, near the flukes as well



as both sides of the belly. Based on the post-mortem study carried out by concerned officials, it was seen that the whale was in starved condition and it was thought to have been separated from its pod. The age of the whale was surmised to be 6-7 years. The carcass of the whale was buried in the same location by officials. This is a first report of this species from Andhra Pradesh and second report of stranding of this species from the region. An earlier report of stranding of a female Bryde's whale was reported from Puri, Odisha on 10th December 2021 (Dash *et al*, 2021). Sighting of Bryde's whale has been reported from the region, off the mouth of River Rushikulya, Odisha at a distance of 6 km from the shore, at a depth of 28-32 m (John *et al*, 2012).

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