

## NOTES

### ON THE STRANDING OF *SOTALIA* (CETACEA : ODONTOCETI) OFF THE COAST OF DAMAN (SOUTH GUJARAT, INDIA)

#### ABSTRACT

Stranding of *Sotalia* sp. measuring 251.8 cm in total length from south Gujarat Coast on December 16, 1976 is reported in this account.

STRANDINGS of members of Cetacea along the Indian Coast have been occasionally reported by Moses (1947), Silas and Pillai (1960), Deraniyagala (1965) and Raval *et al.* (1977) and more information on the distribution of these animals are available in the extensive work of Blanford (1891), Methews (1968) and Pilleri (1971). The latter author has shown *Sotalia* in the southwest coast of India, especially along Kerala Coast. However, we have not come across reports on the occurrence of *Sotalia* along the Gujarat Coast. In this note a stranding of *Sotalia* sp. is reported along the coast of Devka (Latitude 20° 25' N, Longitude 72° 53' E). The specimen was observed on December 16, 1976 and from the conditions, it appeared that the specimen must have been washed ashore about four to five days before it was observed. The identification was based on the characters described by Fraser (1937) and Methews (1968). The decayed cadaver made the identification extremely difficult. Nevertheless, the characters shown by the skeleton (Fowler, 1966) confirmed the identification.

Another dead specimen of *Sotalia* was collected by Raval, Tandel and Bhatt (per. comm.) in April, 1977, along the coast of Udwada, South Gujarat, a place about twentyfive kilometres from Daman.

In his elaborate treatment, Pilleri (1971) has mentioned only two species of *Sotalia* namely *S. plumbea* and *S. lentiginosa* to occur along the coast of Southern India. The former is found in the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea (Southern India), whereas, the latter is found in the Southern India and not in the Indian Ocean. Though the species of *Sotalia* could not be identified for the reasons aforesaid, it is presumed that the specimen under discussion here would be *S. plumbea* since it inhabits the Arabian Sea. Thus, to our knowledge this report makes the first record of occurrence of *Sotalia* along the south Gujarat Coast. Further, the occurrence of *Sotalia* along this coast is confirmed by the observations made by Raval, Tandel and Bhatt at Udwada, south Gujarat.

The skeleton of the specimen is deposited in the Museum of the Department of Biology, P. T. Sarvajanic College of Science, Surat (India), and the one prepared by Raval *et al.* in the Museum of the Department of Zoology, B. P. Baria Institute of Science, Navsari (south Gujarat, India).

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Measurements (in cm) of the specimen of *Sotalia* stranded off the coast of Daman.

Length of the specimen	251.8	Length of the dentate portion	28.5
Span of the flukes	40.3		
Length of the snout	37.5	Number of teeth in each side of the jaw	35

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### ON THE OPISTHOBRANCH *HAMINOEA VITREA* (A. ADAMS, 1850) FROM MADH ISLAND (BOMBAY)

#### ABSTRACT

Several specimens of Opisthobranch mollusc of the genus *Haminoea* were collected from Madh Island (Bombay) during December 1974 and January 1975. The external characters of these specimens differed from those of the recorded characters of the two species (*Haminoea tenera* and *H. crocata*) known from India. The main differences were seen in spawning behaviour, the radula and the nature of the substratum. The biology and the reproduction were also studied in the laboratory. The anatomical features are primitive and simple, typical of an opisthobranch of a herbivorous feeding habit.