

A CATALOGUE OF INDIAN MARINE MAMMAL RECORDS

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The number of mammal species found in India is 408 (Nameer, 1998). This includes about 30 of the world's 120 species of marine mammals (Jefferson et al., 1993).

The Indian marine habitat

Along the Indian coast, several distinct features are found, such as estuaries, mangrove swamps, beaches, cliffs and coral reefs. However, the country's vast marine habitat proper (the total area of the Arabian Sea is about 3.8 million square kilometres and that of the Bay of Bengal is over 2.1 million square kilometres) presents few features above the surface. It has few islands, and the submarine features offer little hindrance to the movement of marine mammals – these features are far too deep underwater (the average depth of the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal is over 2600 m) (Britannica CD, 1997). Though the habitat is obstacle-free, a uniform distribution of the various species is not expected.

Factors affecting the distribution of marine mammals

It is known that certain marine mammal species are found exclusively or primarily in certain waters. The main factors creating the invisible barriers appear to be water temperature, depth of water and distance from the shore (see, for example, Gaskin, 1985). Indirectly, those factors that influence productivity in the ocean also affect the distribution of marine mammals: surface currents, upwelling, rainfall, salinity and oxygen content.

Further, it is generally understood that the baleen whales that rely on the polar summer blooms of plankton need to return to the tropics to breed, and are thus forced to migrate and to travel considerable distances every year. One species of toothed whale, the Sperm Whale *Physeter macrocephalus*, is also known to travel long distances regularly. The seasonal movements of smaller toothed whales are less coordinated (Watson, 1981).

The distribution of Indian marine mammals

In the light of the foregoing, various questions arise regarding the patterns of marine mammal distribution and the hydrological and physiographical features of the seas of India. For instance:

What is the effect of the broad continental shelf off western India as compared with the narrower shelf in the Bay of Bengal?

Surface salinity varies greatly through the year in the Bay of Bengal, while it is more stable in the Arabian Sea. The Bay of Bengal has a net gain of water annually (input from rainfall and rivers exceeds evaporation), while the Arabian Sea exhibits a net water loss (Britannica CD, 1997). What does this mean for the marine mammal fauna?

The surface currents reverse direction every year with the northeast and southwest monsoons. Is this significant, and if yes, how?

The Indian Ocean differs from the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans in being landlocked in the Northern Hemisphere, and does not extend to Arctic waters. What are the implications for the migratory movements of the large whales?

These and other questions are to be answered yet. The reason is that the information available on the distribution of the marine mammals of the Indian seas is meagre. Little research has been conducted on these animals in India (the *Tulip* project (cf. Alling, 1986) is the solitary exception). Whatever is known is derived from incidental data like stranding records and fisheries bycatches information.

The decline of marine mammals

Worldwide, marine mammals have declined due to various reasons including increasingly sophisticated methods of hunting, pollution, degradation of habitats and growing human populations (Leatherwood & Donovan, 1990). In the absence of any dedicated survey to assess the abundance of marine mammals in Indian waters, we have no indication of their numbers, leave alone their population trends. Nevertheless, whatever distributional information is available from India (see Tables 1–29) gives rise to great concern: (1) The records of the smaller cetaceans are dominated by their non-targetted catches by fisheries. The problem of dolphin casualties in the fishing industry is of a disturbing magnitude. (2) It is well documented that the Dugong *Dugong dugon* is seriously endangered. (3) About 50% of the stranded baleen whales have not even been identified to species. With so little known about them, they may well be losing vital habitats including calving areas.

Research and conservation needs

Research is urgently needed to remedy the lack of information and to identify conservation requirements. This paper seeks to provide for the researcher and the naturalist a systematic catalogue of the Indian marine mammal records to date. The word “marine” is interpreted strictly as “of the sea” in this context. This definition excludes one Indian cetacean, the Indus–Ganges Dolphin *Platanista gangetica*, from this work, as the species is understood to be purely fluvial. Similarly, the three species of otter found in India do not find a place here. Previously, Moses (1940, 1947), Pillay (1926) and James & Soundararajan (1979) have listed records of whales from India. Records of Risso’s Dolphin *Grampus griseus*, Dwarf Sperm Whale *Kogia simus*, Pygmy Sperm Whale *K. breviceps* and other cetaceans of the Indian Ocean appear in Leatherwood & Donovan (1990), while De Silva (1987) provides a list of records of cetaceans in the northern part of the Indian Ocean. The present work also provides details of numerous records not covered by this body of work, including dolphin, porpoise and dugong records from India.

The data of the following tables underscore the need for research. Further, they allow *directions* for research to be inferred. Spatial and temporal distribution patterns and population structures may perhaps be deduced from the information, limited as it is.

Note: The names of places have been spelt in the tables as cited in the references. Non-metric measurements and distances found in the references are given within parantheses.

Records of marine mammals from India

Order CETACEA

Family DELPHINIDAE

Table 1 Rough-toothed Dolphin *Steno bredanensis* (Lesson 1828)

Date	Details	Source
?	Reported by Blanford from the Nicobar Islands	De Silva, 1987

Table 2 Indo-Pacific Humpback Dolphin *Sousa chinensis* (Osbeck 1765)

Date	Details	Source
?	Skull from Visakhapatnam in the British Museum, gifted by Sir Walter Elliot	De Silva, 1987
?	Stranding on the Malabar coast reported by Blanford	De Silva, 1987
?	Stranding at Alibag, Bombay reported by Blanford	De Silva, 1987

?	Stranding at Waltair, Vizagapatam, reported by Blanford	De Silva, 1987
1827	Two skulls collected from the Malabar coast by Dussumier	De Silva, 1987
?	Mounted specimen in the Museum d'Histoire Naturelle, Laboratoire d'Anatomie Comparee, France	De Silva, 1987
?	Two skulls in the Bombay Natural History Society	De Silva, 1987
1837	Sightings off Malabar	De Silva, 1987
18 September 1854	Sightings off Visakhapatnam	De Silva, 1987
1866?	" <i>Delphinus lentiginosus</i> " described by Owen from Walter Elliot's collections made on the eastern coast ¹	Jerdon, 1867
?	One cast ashore near Dhanu, Tanna district	Sinclair, 1895
31 March 1901 [?]	Young specimen " <i>Sotalia fergusoni</i> " measuring 1 m (3 feet 6 inches) cast ashore at Trivandrum beach	Lydekker, 1904
1903	" <i>Sotalia lentiginosa</i> " – an immature specimen obtained from Travancore	Pillay, 1926
August 1908	" <i>Sotalia lentiginosa</i> " specimen measuring 2.15 m (7 feet 2 inches) obtained from Travancore	Pillay, 1926
16 December 1976	One dolphin washed ashore on the coast of Devka, 20°25'N, 72°53'E, identified as <i>Sotalia</i> sp.	Joglekar et al., 1975
1976–1980	Eleven animals caught in gillnets off Calicut coast	Lal Mohan, 1985
2 September 1978	Male 2.7 m long dolphin caught in gillnet off Calicut	James & Lal Mohan, 1987
22 December 1980	Four animals sighted at Calicut Harbour	De Silva, 1987
12 February 1981	One entangled in gillnet off Calicut	Lal Mohan, 1983
15 September 1981	Female with foetus landed at Calicut	Lal Mohan, 1982
April 1982	Sightings northeast of the Andaman Islands	De Silva, 1987
January–March 1983	Four specimens washed ashore at Gahirmatha Beach, Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary, Orissa	James et al., 1989
July 1983–December 1986	5,245 kg of this dolphin landed at Fisheries Harbour, Cochin	Jayaprakash et al., 1995
January–March 1984	Three specimens washed ashore at Gahirmatha Beach, Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary, Orissa	James et al., 1989

¹ Apparently the *Steno lentiginosa* Gray listed by Corbet and Hill (1992).

January–March 1985	Two specimens washed ashore at Gahirmatha Beach, Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary, Orissa	James et al., 1989
5 February 1985	One washed ashore near Mandapam, Palk Bay	Krishna Pillai & Kasinathan, 1988
January–March 1987	Four specimens washed ashore at Gahirmatha Beach, Bhitarkanika	James et al., 1989
1987?	Live specimen caught in gillnet off Calicut	Anonymous, 1987a
18 June 1990	One female washed ashore at Mandapam Camp, Gulf of Mannar	Krishna Pillai et al., 1991
24 January 1991	Female specimen landed at Tuticorin	Arumugam et al., 1992
?	“A few specimens” reported from Porto Novo	Kumaran & Subramanian, 1993
11 July 1993	Eight dolphins stranded at Tuticorin Major Harbour	Mohamad Kasim et al., 1994
1993?	Two females and three males entangled in gillnets at Calicut coast	Lal Mohan, 1995
16 February 1994	Female with foetus caught in drift gillnet off Tuticorin	Arumugam et al., 1995
15 September 1994	Carcass at Mandapam Camp, Gulf of Mannar	Lipton et al., 1995
15 September 1995 [1994?]	Putrefied carcass at Seeniappa Dharga, Gulf of Mannar	Lipton et al., 1995
September 1996 [?]	Twelve dolphins observed in 25 km of coast from Elathur to Quilandy river, Kerala	Lal Mohan, 1996a

Table 3 Striped Dolphin² *Stenella coeruleoalba* (Meyen 1833)

Date	Details	References
1982–1984	A number of observations off the coasts of southern India and Sri Lanka	Alling, 1986

Table 4 Pantropical Spotted Dolphin *Stenella attenuata* (Gray 1846)

Date	Details	References
1846	Described as <i>Steno attenuatus</i> by Gray from the Bay of Bengal	De Silva, 1987
?	Recorded as <i>Delphinus malayanus</i> by Blanford from the Sundarban Islands	De Silva, 1987
1900	Described as <i>Prodelphinus attenuatus</i> by Beddard from the Bay of Bengal	De Silva, 1987
?	Skull collected by Mrs. Ince, in the British Museum	De Silva, 1987
1982–1984	One observed bow-riding at night off the coast of India	Alling, 1986
13 April 1983	Sighting in the northern Bay of Bengal	De Silva, 1987

² This species is recorded from Porto Novo (PL. Kumaran, personal communication).

6 August 1999	A group of 12 dolphins including Spotted and Spinner Dolphins stranded 10 km from Tuticorin rescued; on 9 August 1999, four dead dolphins believed to be members of this group were washed ashore near the Roche Park area, Tuticorin	Anonymous, 1999a, b
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Table 5 Spinner Dolphin *Stenella longirostris* (Gray 1828)

Date	Details	References
Prior to 1827	Photograph of skull (illustration) from Malabar in the US National Museum files	De Silva, 1987
1976–1980	Ninety-two specimens caught in gillnets off the Calicut coast	Lal Mohan, 1985
19 September 1981	Male specimen caught in gillnet off Calicut	James & Lal Mohan, 1987
1982–1984	A number of observations off the coasts of southern India	Alling, 1986
15 May 1982	One specimen collected at Porto Novo (11°29'N; 79°46'E) in a bottom-set gillnet	Rajaguru & Natarajan, 1985; Kumaran & Subramanian, 1993
July 1983–December 1986	18,210 kg of this dolphin landed at Fisheries Harbour, Cochin	Jayaprakash et al., 1995
11 February 1986	One male, 1.9 m long, caught at Bombay High near the ONGC offshore base in a gillnet	Karbhari et al., 1985
5 March 1986	One male, 2.28 m long, caught off Janjira–Murud, Maharashtra in gillnet	Karbhari et al., 1985
29 August 1989	One specimen caught in a gillnet in the Gulf of Mannar	Krishna Pillai, Bose et al., 1989
28 December 1990	Nearly 300 counted at sea, south of Mangalore at 11°46'N, 10°E	Jayaprakash et al., 1995
21 August 1991	One young female entangled in gillnet off Visakhapatnam – this was only 70.5 cm long and 2.66 kg in weight	Seshagiri Rao & Narayana Rao, 1992
1993?	Two animals entangled in gillnets at the Calicut coast	Lal Mohan, 1995

Table 6 Common Dolphin *Delphinus delphis* Linnaeus 1758

Date	Details	References
?	Skull in Calcutta Museum, described as “ <i>Delphinus frithii</i> ” by Blyth; gifted by R.W.G. Frith	De Silva, 1987
1866?	“ <i>Delphinus pomeegra</i> ” described by Owen from Walter Elliot’s collections from near Visakhapatnam; skull in the British Museum (Natural History)	Jerdon, 1867
?	Record from the Madras coast by Blanford	De Silva, 1987
1902–1905	One [?] taken from Travancore	Pillay, 1926

December 1935 [?]	One among a group of porpoises driven into a lagoon and slaughtered in the Laccadive Islands	Burton, 1940
[?]	Often found scattering shoals of oil-sardine throughout the year off Calicut	Balan, 1961
1976–1980	Fourteen caught in gillnets off Calicut	Lal Mohan, 1985
30 March 1979	One 2.02 m specimen caught off Port Blair	Sivaprakasam, 1980
1981–1982	Stray numbers landed at Fisheries Harbour, Cochin at certain months; along with Bottlenose Dolphins made up 1% of the total gillnet landings	Silas et al., 1984
1982–1984	Some observations in the Gulf of Mannar	Alling, 1986
1982–1987	~145 dolphins landed at Sakthikulangara, near Quilon, where they were sold for human consumption or as bait in the hook and line fishery for sharks	Mahadevan Pillai & Chandrangathan, 1990
20 February 1982	Young male specimen washed ashore at Mandapam	Krishna Pillai & Kasinathan, 1987
8 December 1982	Young specimen caught in gillnet between Thonithurai and Krusadai Island near Mandapam	Krishna Pillai & Kasinathan, 1987
1983?	Six males and four females caught off Calangute, Goa	De Silva, 1987
July 1983–December 1986	11,415 kg of this species landed at Fisheries Harbour, Cochin, [including?] 42 brought in by a purse-seine on 24 September 1984	Jayaprakash et al., 1995
5 September 1987	Sighting of a school of about 12 dolphins of this species near Paradeep, along the Orissa coast	Jayaprakash et al., 1995
5 February 1989	Eight of this species sighted at 16° 4'N, 81° 31'E, north of Kakinada	Jayaprakash et al., 1995
18 February 1991	Some sighted at 7° 47'N, 77° 12'E from the vessel FORV <i>Sagar Sampada</i>	Jayaprakash, et al., 1995
1993?	Two females entangled in gillnets at the Calicut coast	Lal Mohan, 1995
10 April 1992	One male with tail severed washed ashore at Mandapam	Krishna Pillai & Lipton, 1996
6 July 1996	Three entangled in gillnets at Calicut	Lal Mohan, 1996b
?	Half a dozen in shallow water, Point Calimere	Krishnan, 1997
20 March 1997	One male Common Dolphin measuring 3.05 m entangled in gillnet near Murud Janjira	Jadhav & Rao, 1998

14 October 1997	Nine Common Dolphins entangled in shore seine operated between Balaramapuram and Srikuurman Matchilesam landing centres of Srikakulam district, Andhra Pradesh	Chandrakumar, 1998
?	Two female Common Dolphins measuring 2.16 and 2.09 m entangled in gillnet and landed at Dummulapeta, East Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh	Anonymous, 1998
30 June 1999	Forty-two specimens including young ones, identified as this species, washed ashore at Vellapatti village in Tuticorin district	Anonymous, 1999c, d

Table 7 Bottle-nosed Dolphin *Tursiops truncatus* (Montagu 1821)

Date	Details	References
1846?	Skull from Bay of Bengal, the type of “ <i>Delphinus eurynome</i> ”, in the British Museum (Natural History)	De Silva, 1987
?	Four skeletons from Trivandrum in the British Museum (Natural History)	De Silva, 1987
1848?	“ <i>Delphinus perniger</i> ” described by Elliot from the Bay of Bengal; stuffed skin in the Museum of the Asiatic Society, Calcutta ³	Jerdon, 1867; De Silva, 1987; Corbet & Hill, 1992
1866?	“ <i>Delphinus godama</i> ” described by Owen from collections made by Sir Walter Elliot near Visakhapatnam; the skull gifted by Elliot to the British Museum (Natural History)	Jerdon, 1867; De Silva, 1987
14 February 1901	One specimen “ <i>Tursiops fergusonii</i> ” measuring 2.4 m (8 feet 1 inch) brought by fishermen to Trivandrum ⁴	Ferguson, 1903
7 March 1901 [?]	One specimen “ <i>Tursiops catalania</i> ” measuring 2.2 m (7 feet 4.5 inches) stranded at Trivandrum	Lydekker, 1904
15 October 1903	A pair taken off the Trivandrum coast	Lydekker, 1905
October 1904	Specimen caught off Trivandrum may be this species	Lydekker, 1905
1904	A single specimen of “ <i>Tursiops gilli</i> ” obtained from Travancore	Pillay, 1926
February 1908	Two specimens of “ <i>Tursiops</i> ”	Pillay, 1926; De Silva, 1987

³ There is one stuffed specimen of “*Steno perniger*” in the Madras Government Museum (personal observation).

⁴ Probably the same specimen listed by Pillay (1926) as “*Tursiops catalanta*” with date February 1902.

1976–1980	<i>dawsoni</i> ” purchased measuring 2.7 and 2.8 m (9 feet and 9 feet 4 inches) by the Trivandrum museum; one skeleton in the British Museum (Natural History)	Lal Mohan, 1985
21 December 1978	Fifty-seven animals caught off the Calicut coast in gillnets	James & Lal Mohan, 1987
12 November 1980	One male caught off Calicut	Krishna Pillai & Kasinathan, 1987
	One male measuring 1.83 m caught near Krusadi Island in a trawl net	
1 December 1980	One female with a foetus caught in a gillnet off Calicut	Lal Mohan, 1982
31 January 1981	Female with a foetus in a gillnet off Calicut	Lal Mohan, 1982
26 November 1981	Adult female caught in the Gulf of Mannar near Mandapam	Krishna Pillai & Kasinathan, 1987
8 December 1981	Young female measuring 1.43 m caught in trawl net near Mandapam	Krishna Pillai & Kasinathan, 1987
1981–1982	Stray numbers landed at Fisheries Harbour, Cochin at certain months; along with Common Dolphins made up 1% of the total gillnet landings	Silas et al., 1984
25 March 1982	One collected at Porto Novo in a bottom-set gillnet	Rajaguru & Natarajan, 1985; Kumaran & Subramanian, 1993
7 December 1982	Seven dolphins following the net during trawling operations near Krusadai Island	Krishna Pillai & Kasinathan, 1987
15 December 1982	15-30 dolphins following the end of the net during trawling operations in the vicinity of Krusadi Island	Krishna Pillai & Kasinathan, 1987
1982–1984	A number of observations off the coast of India	Alling, 1986
July 1983–December 1986	10,489 kg of this species landed at Fisheries Harbour, Cochin	Jayaprakash et al., 1995
28 January 1985	One washed ashore near Krusadi Island	Krishna Pillai & Kasinathan, 1988
?	One male caught 30 km south of Visakhapatnam during shrimp trawl operations	Seshagiri Rao & Narayana Rao, 1993
13 April 1992	Female calf 1.07 m long and weighing 10.5 kg caught off Gopalpur and landed at Vizag Fisheries Harbour identified as a Bottlenose Dolphin	Chandrasekar et al., 1993
28 April 1993	Female caught in a bottom-set gillnet about 30 km northeast of Kakinada	Nageswara Rao & Venkata Raman, 1994
1993?	One male entangled in gillnets at the Calicut coast	Lal Mohan, 1995
9 January 1995	One carcass found near Mandapam	Lipton et al., 1995

11 November 1995	One washed ashore at Digha fish landing centre, Midnapore district, West Bengal	Kar, 1996
7 July 1997	One female Bottlenose of length 2.45 m caught off Kakinada	Venkataramana & Achayya, 1998

Fraser's dolphin *Lagenodelphis hosei* Fraser 1956

No records from India, but likely to be recorded here in the future – the species has been reported from Sri Lanka (see, for example, Alling, 1986).

Table 8 Melon-headed Whale⁵ *Peponocephala electra* (Gray 1846)

Date	Details	References
23 August 1853	“ <i>Delphinus (Lagenorhynchus) fusiformis</i> ” described by Owen from Walter Elliot’s collections made near Vizagapatam; skull in the British Museum (Natural History)	Jerdon, 1867; De Silva, 1987; Leatherwood et al., 1991
About 1888	Skull from the Palk Strait, in the British Museum	De Silva, 1987; Leatherwood et al., 1991
?	Sighting from Vizagapatam	Leatherwood et al., 1991
Before 1971	Specimen from Car Nicobar Island	Leatherwood et al., 1991

Table 9 Irrawaddy Dolphin *Orcaella brevirostris* (Gray 1886)

Date	Details	References
1866?	Type skull, collected by Sir Walter Elliot at Vizagapatam, in the British Museum (Natural History)	De Silva, 1987
?	Record from Ganges river, 70–80 m upstream of the Bay of Bengal	De Silva, 1987
19 November 1977	One live animal stranded on the Madras beach after a cyclone	Miller, 1997
1915?	Large dead male specimen washed ashore on Kaladi Island, Chilka Lake	Dhandapani, 1992
1985–1987	Decomposed body on Breakfast Island, and a dead female specimen afloat in the northern sector of Chilka Lake, apart from three live animal sightings	Dhandapani, 1992
January–March 1987	One dead specimen washed ashore at Gahirmatha Beach, Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary, Orissa	James et al., 1989

Table 10 False Killer Whale *Pseudorca crassidens* (Owen 1846)

Date	Details	References
14 February 1901	One stranded on beach near Trivandrum ⁶	Ferguson, 1903

⁵ Recorded from Porto Novo (PL. Kumaran, personal communication).

after February 1902	Two immature specimens measuring 3.5 and 3.2 m (11 feet 10 inches and 10 feet 9.5 inches) recorded at Trivandrum	Pillay, 1926
after February 1902	Adult specimens recorded at Rajakamangalum and Tengapatam	Pillay, 1926
?	Recorded by Pearson south of India	De Silva, 1987
27 November 1960	Two specimens stranded at Pozhikara, 60 km south of Trivandrum	Silas & Kumara Pillay, 1960
28 July 1975	One specimen stranded at Puthiappa, 5 km north of Calicut	Lal Mohan et al., 1984; De Silva, 1987
18 October 1975	One male stranded at Rameswaram	Thiagarajan et al., 1984
27 July 1976	Two false killers entangled in gillnets off Madhuban, Port Blair; one escaped	Sivaprakasam, 1980; James, 1984
9 June 1977	False killer caught in gillnet off Port Blair	Sivaprakasam, 1980
August 1978	Specimen from Gulf of Cambay, Maharashtra in Institute of Science, Navsari	De Silva, 1987
1978	One caught in gillnet off the Calicut coast	Lal Mohan, 1985
July 1979	One landed at Puthiappa beach, Calicut	James & Lal Mohan, 1987
1982–1984	A few sightings off the coast of India	Alling, 1986
4 April 1988	Four whales seen swimming in Mandapam Bay, Palk Bay side, were possibly this species	Anonymous, 1988a
5 July 1988	Two whales seen off Mandapam on the Palk Bay side identified tentatively as this species	Vedavysya Rao et al., 1989
6 August 1992	Immature female brought to shore at Veerapandianpatnam, Gulf of Mannar, caught in drift gillnet	Mohamad Kasim al., 1993
1993?	One female specimen caught in gillnet off the Calicut coast	Lal Mohan, 1995

Table 11 Killer Whale *Orcinus orca* (Linnaeus 1758)

Date	Details	References
1943	One specimen stranded at Armada, Baroda State	De Silva, 1987
?	Skull from the Nicobar Islands in the Bombay Natural History Society	De Silva, 1987
1976	Three animals sighted less than 8	Miller, 1976, personal

⁶ Probably the same stranding cited by Pillay (1926) as having occurred in February 1902. It is possibly the skeleton of this specimen that is recorded by De Silva (1987) as being in the British Museum (Natural History).

12 April, 1983	km off Madras Harbour One sighted north of the Andamans	communication De Silva, 1987
April 2000	Solitary Killer Whale, possibly female of length 6–7 m, off the reefs of Agatti, Lakshadweep Islands	Rohan Arthur, personal communication

Table 12 Risso's Dolphin⁷ *Grampus griseus* (G. Cuvier 1812)

Date	Details	References
1982–1984	A number of sightings off the coast of India	Alling, 1986
15 February 1986	Male specimen 2.45 m long captured 4 km from the shore off Triplicane beach, Madras	Rajagopalan et al., 1984

Table 13 Short-finned Pilot Whale *Globicephala macrorhynchus* Gray 1846

Date	Details	References
July 1852	A shoal of many dozens of the “Indian Pilot Whale <i>Globicephalus indicus</i> ” stranded at Salt Lakes, near Calcutta; two specimens procured by Blyth ⁸	Jerdon, 1867; Moses, 1947
1852?	Specimen killed in the Hoogly river near Serampore	Jerdon, 1867
?	Recorded by Blanford from “the salt or brackish water of the Gangetic Delta”	De Silva, 1987
26 January 1923	Three photographs in the British Museum (Natural History) of the species from 16 km (10 miles) north of Bombay	Leatherwood et al., 1991
14 January 1973	147 stranded on a 3 km stretch from Kulasekharapattinam to Manapad, Tamilnadu	Alagarwami et al., 1973
14 December 1980	Two groups seen	Leatherwood et al., 1991
16 December 1980	Five seen	Leatherwood et al., 1991
29 July 1986	Two female specimens 3.02 and 1.4 m long caught in gillnets at Pudukuppam near Cuddalore	Nammalwar, Devadoss et al., 1989

Pygmy Killer Whale *Feresa attenuata* (Gray 1827)

No records from India presently, but likely to be reported from here in the future. For records from Sri Lanka, see, for example, Alling (1986) and De Silva (1987).

Table 14 Unidentified dolphins

Date	Details	References
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⁷ Kruse et al. (1991) report that this species is taken with harpoons and drift gillnets in aboriginal and commercial fishing ventures in several areas of the Indian Ocean including India.

⁸ Leatherwood et al. (1991) state there is confusion in the published records regarding Pilot Whale strandings near Calcutta and the type specimen procured by Blyth. They mention an 1850 stranding of 20 specimens at Salt Lakes, reported by Blyth. The date in De Silva's (1987) listing of a 1950 stranding of “dozens near Salt Lakes, Calcutta” is possibly wrong, referring indeed to this record.

1829?	“ <i>Delphinus plumbeus</i> ” taken on the Malabar coast ⁹	Jerdon, 1867
1866?	“ <i>Delphinus maculiventer</i> ” described by Owen from collections made by Walter Elliot on the east coast, mostly near Visakhapatnam ¹⁰	Jerdon, 1867
April 1977	One dead specimen on the Udwada coast, south Gujarat, about 25 km from Daman	Joglekar et al., 1975
January–March 1987	One unidentified dolphin washed ashore at Gahirmatha Beach, Bhitarkanika Wildlife Sanctuary, Orissa	James et al., 1989
1992–1994	A number of unidentified dolphins observed off the coast of India	Alling, 1986
15 November 1997	One dead dolphin measuring about 2.5 m found at Janjira-Murud, Raigad District, Maharashtra	Ramnesh Rao, 1998

Family PHOCOENIDAE

Table 15 Finless Porpoise *Neophocaena phocaenoides* (G. Cuvier 1829)

Date	Details	References
1827	Skulls, an incomplete skeleton and a mounted specimen collected by Dussumier from Malabar coast, in the Museum National d’Histoire Naturelle, Laboratoire d’Anatomie Comparee	De Silva, 1987
1866?	“ <i>Delphinapterus molagen</i> ” described by Owen from “Madras”	De Silva, 1987
1908	Several specimens purchased at Trivandrum ¹¹	Pillay, 1926
?	Skull and foetus from the mouth of Bombay Harbour in the British Museum (Natural History)	De Silva, 1987
?	Three skulls from the Malabar coast in the Bombay Natural History Society	De Silva, 1987
December 1935 [?]	Ten porpoises slaughtered in a lagoon in the Laccadives ¹²	Burton, 1940

⁹ Jerdon indicates that Dussumier is the author of the description. This may, however, refer to the same description as *D. plumbea* Cuvier, G. listed by Corbet and Hill (1992) under *Sousa chinensis*.

¹⁰ Corbet and Hill (1992) state that the generic allocation of this name is uncertain. They question whether it is *Steno maculiventer*.

¹¹ These are perhaps the sources of the bones referred to by De Silva (1987): one skull collected by Ferguson, in the British Museum (Natural History) and a skeleton from Trivandrum, in the Trivandrum Museum.

12 November 1959	Seventeen porpoises landed in a large shore seine and two more together at Malpe on the South Kanara coast. Four embryos recovered	Dawson, 1959
12 February 1965	One female caught off Karwar	Devaraj & Sam Bennett, 1974
10 February 1973	One young female specimen caught in gillnet off Calicut	Balan, 1976
1976	Eight caught in gillnets off the Calicut coast	Lal Mohan, 1985
20 February 1980	One caught near the mouth of the Zoari river off Vasco-da-Gama, one foetus recovered	Hafeezullah, 1984
July 1983–December 1986	One male and two females landed at Cochin Fisheries Harbour	Jayaprakash et al., 1995
January–March 1986	Two porpoises washed ashore at Gahirmatha, Orissa coast	James et al., 1989
January–March 1987	Two porpoises washed ashore at Gahirmatha, Orissa coast	James et al., 1989
8 July 1988	One 77 cm long female landed at Mandapam	Nammalwar et al., 1994
11 August 1990	One 1.32 m long female landed at Pillaimadam, near Mandapam	Nammalwar et al., 1994
16 November 1990	One 1.26 m female landed at Verkodu, Rameswaram	Nammalwar et al., 1994
January 1992	Three specimens stranded or washed ashore near Thondi, Tamilnadu, in one week in a 5 km stretch of beach	Ganapathy, 1992
29 January 1992	One immature male, 1.39 m long, collected from Porto Novo during an inshore gillnet operation	Kumaran & Subramanian, 1993
25 October 1992	One 1.32 m long male landed at Agnitheertham, Rameswaram	Nammalwar et al., 1994
1993?	One male specimen entangled in gillnets off the Calicut coast	Lal Mohan, 1995
14 September 1995	One young porpoise found washed ashore at Ullal, near Mangalore	Muthiah, 1995

Family PHYSETERIDAE

Table 16 Sperm Whale *Physeter macrocephalus* Linnaeus 1758

Date	Details	References
?	Skull at the Madras Government Museum, with no details	Personal observation
January 1890	Whale killed by the <i>Euphrates</i> – reported by Blanford in the Fauna of British India ¹³	James, 1990
January 1890	One measuring 7.2 m (24 feet) stranded at Madras; observed by Thurston, reported by Blanford	Moses, 1947; De Silva, 1987

¹² Identified by Burton as Common Porpoises *Phocaena phocaena*.

¹³ This and the next record are treated as one by James and Soundararajan (1979).

March & April 1920	Sightings off the Nicobar and Andaman Islands	De Silva, 1987
25 February 1971	One entangled in drift net, near Kalpeni Island, Lakshadweep	James, 1990
23 June 1972	One female 8.37 m long washed ashore at the Kodibag area, where the Kali river meets the sea	Antony Raja & Vasudev Pai, 1973
July 1979	Male washed ashore on Manauli Island, Gulf of Mannar	James & Soundararajan, 1979; De Silva, 1987
12 April 1980	Young male stranded at Mahabalipuram, near Madras	James & Manivasagam, 1976; James & Soundararajan, 1979
30 April 1980	8.1 m long male washed ashore on Krusadai Island	James & Soundararajan, 1979, 1981
25 November 1980	Young female stranded at Puthenthuruth Island, Quilon	Bande et al., 1980
14 April 1982	Four observed on a cruise from Madras to Trincomalee	Leatherwood, 1984
8 June 1982	One young male measuring 9.06 m stranded near Tranquebar, 11°N, 79°8'E	Silas et al., 1985; Nammalwar & Thanapathi (1982)
November 1982	One stranded at Cheriyan shore, near Kalpeni Island Lakshadweep	James, 1990
?	One stranding at Pudupet, east coast	De Silva, 1987
19 April 1983	Observation of three animals south of India	De Silva, 1987
22 December 1983 [1982?]	One decomposed carcass at Chetlat Island, Lakshadweep	James, 1990
7 August 1984	One washed ashore on Chetlat Island, Lakshadweep	James, 1990
5 November 1986	One stranded on Hare Island, Gulf of Mannar	Sivadas et al., 1987
19 November 1986	Wounded specimen from the northern part of Chetlat Island	James, 1990
3 December 1986	Female 5.55 m long stranded at Pommaiyarpalayam, near Pondicherry	Nammalwar, Devadoss et al., 1989
8 March 1988	Female 3.9 m long stranded at Kasimedu, Madras	Nammalwar, Srinivasarangan et al., 1989
18 December 1988	Baby female 3.71 m long stranded at Samnathanpettai, near Nagapattinam	Nammalwar, Krishna Pillai et al., 1992
1 February 1989	Female 10.6 m long stranded at Neelakaraikuppam, near Madras	Nammalwar, Devadoss et al., 1989
15 August 1990	Female of 9.5 m length with a foetus, stranded at the southern extremity of Chetlat Island, Lakshadweep	James & Panicker, 1994
18 January 1991	Young female 9.71 m long stranded at Vizhunthamavadi, near Nagapattinam	Nammalwar, Krishna Pillai et al., 1992

Table 17 Pygmy Sperm Whale *Kogia breviceps* (Blainville 1838)

Date	Details	References
1866?	A 2.1 m (7 feet) specimen	Moses, 1947

February 1925 [?]	obtained at Vizagapatam A gravid female specimen about 3 m (10 feet) and one immature specimen at Trivandrum	Pillay, 1926
8 July 1988	A 1.95 m long specimen from Port Blair, Andamans with an 80 cm foetus ¹⁴	Chantrapornsyl et al., 1991

Table 18 Dwarf Sperm Whale *Kogia simus* Owen 1866

Date	Details	References
28 February 1853	Skull from “Madras” — type specimen of “ <i>Physeter</i> (<i>Euphysetes</i>) <i>simus</i> ” gifted by Sir Walter Elliot to the British Museum (Natural History)	De Silva, 1987; Jerdon, 1867
?	Recorded from Vizagapatam by Blanford	De Silva, 1987
?	Skull gifted by the Superintendent, Trivandrum Museum to the British Museum (Natural History) ¹⁵	De Silva, 1987

Family ZIPHIIDAE

Ginkgo-toothed Beaked Whale *Mesoplodon ginkgodens* Nishiwaki and Kamiya 1958

No records from India. However, India lies at the limit of its known worldwide distribution. There is a confirmed record from Sri Lanka (De Silva, 1987).

Longman's Beaked Whale *Mesoplodon pacificus* Longman 1926

No records from India. This species is known to exist only from two skulls, one found in northeastern Australia and the other in Somalia, though there are some unconfirmed sight records, including from near the Seychelles.

Table 19 Blainville's Beaked Whale *Mesoplodon densirostris* (Blainville 1817)

Date	Details	References
?	Recorded from the Nicobar Islands	Evans, 1987; Corbet & Hill, 1992

Table 20 Cuvier's Beaked Whale *Ziphius cavirostris* G. Cuvier 1823

Date	Details	References
10 November 1982	One female washed ashore on the reef flat at Boaz Point (Ragandi), Minicoy Atoll, Lakshadweep	Gopinadha Pillai, et al., 1981
?	One young female reported from Porto Novo	Kumaran & Subramanian, 1993

¹⁴ It is not clear whether this record is actually of the Dwarf Sperm Whale *Kogia simus*. In the text the authors describe this as a *K. breviceps* record, but list it in their table of *K. simus* records.

¹⁵ The specimen with a foetus beached at Trivandrum mentioned by De Silva (1987) is probably the Pygmy Sperm Whale *Kogia breviceps* listed by Pillay (1926).

Southern Bottlenose Whale *Hyperoodon planifrons* Flower 1882

There are no records from India, but the species is reported from Sri Lanka (Alling, 1986).

Family BALAENOPTERIDAE

Table 21 Minke Whale *Balaenoptera acutorostrata* Lacepede 1804

Date	Details	References
4 August 1985	A 6.31 m male whale with a prominent white band over the flippers caught alive off Kakinada, believed to be of this species	Seshagiri Rao, 1991

Table 22 Bryde's Whale *Balaenoptera edeni* Anderson 1879

Date	Details	References
?	Recorded from the Bay of Bengal by Blanford	De Silva, 1987
14 April 1982	Seven seen on a cruise from Madras to Trincomalee	Leatherwood, 1984
2 July 1979	A 13 m specimen washed ashore at Beypore, Calicut	Lal Mohan, 1992
20 February 1983	13.52 m long carcass found on an islet near Dhanushkodi Island in Gulf of Mannar	Lal Mohan, 1992
14 November 2000	A 12 m long animal stranded near Point Calimere	Sathasivam, 2001

Table 23 Sei Whale *Balaenoptera borealis* Lesson 1828

Date	Details	References
December 1971	One washed ashore at Pullamadam, northwest of Mandapam Camp, Palk Bay	Venkatraman et al., 1973
30 January 1981	Decomposed specimen entangled in drift nets near Mallipatnam, Thanjavur district	James & Soundararajan, 1980
1983	A 13 m specimen stranded at Dhanushkodi Island – its skeleton kept at the CMFRI, Mandapam Camp	James & Lal Mohan, 1987
26 February 1988	12 m male stranded at Tuticorin port area	Mohamad Kasim & Balasubramanian, 1989
18 May 1988	10.05 m female stranded at Kayalpatnam, Gulf of Mannar	Mohamad Kasim & Balasubramanian, 1989
May 1988	7 m specimen stranded at Tuticorin	Anonymous, 1988b
14 August 1988	9.76 m female found dead in a creek at Kalubhas Island between Salaya and Sikka ports, Gulf of Kutch	Anonymous, 1988a
27 January 1990	11.4 m specimen entangled in gillnet operated near Katchathievu	Krishna Pillai et al., 1995
21 September 1991	9 m long specimen stranded near	Noble & Nasser, 1992

20 January 1992	Cochin, landed at Puthuvypu, Vypeen Island One 14 m female washed ashore at Theedai, near Mandapam Camp	Nammalwar, Marichamy et al., 1992
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Table 24 Fin Whale *Balaenoptera physalus* (Linnaeus 1758)

Date	Details	References
?	Five vertebrae of “ <i>Balaenoptera blythi</i> ” in the Medical College, Calcutta	De Silva, 1987
6 August 1965	One 14.10 m long specimen stranded at Virar near Bombay ¹⁶	Grubh & Pereira, 1965
9 October 1965	One 15.10 m long specimen washed ashore off Nepean Sea Road, Bombay	Grubh & Pereira, 1965; Karbhari et al., 1966
April 1970	13.50 m long specimen found at Candolim, north of Panaji	Dhawan, 1970
13 August 1971	Carcass of 14.05 m long whale found off Magdalla near Surat, about 8 km upstream in the river Tapi	Karbhari, 1973
22 January 1983	Young Fin Whale washed ashore at Akkamadam, Rameswaram Island	Nammalwar et al., 1983
15 June 1988	Female 4.69 m long ¹⁷ landed at Pudumanaikuppam, Madras	Subramani, 1989; Anonymous, 1988b
15 March 1989	14.02 m long female specimen stranded at Ullal, South Kanara	Kulkarni et al., 1989
14 April 1991	Carcass about 10 m long at Kodi Kanyana (Kota), Karnataka	Purandhara & Vaman Naik, 1992
20 November 1995	6.8m specimen stranded on rocks at Kanyakumari	Joel et al., 1996

Table 25 Blue whale *Balaenoptera musculus* (Linnaeus 1758)

Date	Details	References
?	Jawbone from Sordip Bay, Bay of Bengal	De Silva, 1987
1874	Washed ashore at Mangalore, bones in Madras Museum; length 14.4 m (48 feet)	Moses, 1947; James and Soundararajan, 1979; Gibson-Hill, 1950
1901	Specimen of “ <i>Balaenoptera indica</i> ” stranded at Rajakamangalam, south of the Muttum lighthouse, between Colachel and Cape Comorin; buried and exhumed in March 1904 to recover the bones; the lower jaw bones on display in the Travancore Museum ¹⁸	Pillay, 1926

¹⁶ Probably the same stranding recorded by Karbhari et al. (1966) with date 4 August 1965. James and Soundararajan (1979) give Arnala as the stranding locality.

¹⁷ The length of Fin Whales at birth is said to be 6.4 m.

¹⁸ Is this the stranding recorded by Moses (1947) as having occurred in 1901?

11 December 1913?	12.3 (41 feet) long male stranded at Dhabool, 155 km (97 miles) south of Bombay ¹⁹	Prater, 1915
November 1927	28.2 m (94 feet) whale stranded near Cherai, Cochin	Moses, 1947
March 1939	Stranding of 23.7 m long whale (79 feet) at Mulvel, Okhamandal district, Kathiawar ²⁰	Moses, 1940
14 May 1951	22.2 m (74 feet) long whale at Umargam, 160 km (100 miles) from Bombay ²¹	Chari, 1951
7 December 1960	Stranding at Ganeshgram, Gujarat, specimen 23.4 m (78 feet) long	De Silva, 1987; James & Soundararajan, 1979
23 February 1963	20.28 m long specimen stranded at Gavier, near Magdalla Port, 11.2 km (7 miles) from Surat	Daniel, 1963
5 February 1966	Putrefied specimen 13.65 m long at Mandapam (Palk Bay)	James & Soundararajan, 1979
25 May 1966	Washed ashore at Kannanparambu, near Calicut; 13.51 m long	Venkatraman & Girijavallabhan, 1966
2 April 1969	Juvenile <i>Balaenoptera</i> sp. whale stranded off Tuticorin tentatively identified as a Blue Whale	Bensam et al., 1972
20 December 1976	Immature female 6.35 m long stranded at Ovari, Gulf of Mannar	Marichamy et al., 1984
4 October 1977	Female 10–12 m long entangled in gillnet alive at Pamban, Palk Bay	James & Soundararajan, 1979
14 April 1982	One observed on a cruise from Madras to Trincomalee	Leatherwood, 1984
2 September 1985	Male, 10.3 m long, found at Chappa Beach, Narakkal, Cochin	Somasekharan Nair & Jayaprakash, 1987
29 September 1988	Female, 19.2 m long, washed ashore at Paravana, near Calicut	Lal Mohan, 1992
10 December 1988	Male washed ashore at Motupally, near Ramachandrapuram, Andhra Pradesh	Nammalwar, Devadoss et al., 1989
2 May 1993	26 m specimen stranded at Chellanam, Cochin	James et al., 1993
25 November 1994	Carcass 13.30 m long found at Dhanushkodi	Lipton et al., 1995
9 May 1995	Live male, 12.17 m long, caught in drift gillnet off Mangamaripeta, 12 km north of Visakhapatnam	Mohanraj et al., 1995
29 October 1995	6 m Blue Whale stranded at	Baby, 1996a

¹⁹ Gibson-Hill (1950) and Grubh and Pereira (1965) state that this must almost certainly have been a Fin Whale *B. physalus*.

²⁰ Gibson-Hill (1950) says the flipper length quoted (1.8 m (6 feet)) is too short for any rorqual.

²¹ Daniel (1963) and Grubh and Pereira (1965) suggest this may be a *B. physalus*.

18 October 1996	Valappad beach, Trichur district Stranding of 13 m specimen at Tirur beach	Anonymous, 1987b
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Table 26 Humpback Whale *Megaptera novaeangliae* (Borowski 1781)

Date	Details	References
23 January 1943	14.7 m (49 feet) long whale stranded on the Anjengo coast near Quilon	Mathew, 1948
15 January 1988	Female 14.3 m long specimen washed ashore near Kasaragod	Lal Mohan, 1992
20 January 1988	Decomposed, 15 m long specimen at Mavila Kadappuram, near Nileswaram, Kerala. It drifted back into the sea after two days and appeared on 24 January 1988 at Thaikadappuram. The animal was an adult female ²²	Muthiah et al., 1988
18 January 2001	A 15 m animal stranded in Kanyakumari district	Sathasivam, 2001

Table 27 Unidentified baleen whales

Date	Details	References
1748	A 9 m (30 feet) whale stranded at Pondicherry	Moses, 1947
1757	A 48 m (160 feet) whale landed at Pondicherry ²³	Moses, 1947
1848?	Rorqual 30 m (100 feet) long at Quilon ²⁴	Moses, 1947
1858	27 m (90 feet) long rorqual at Quilon ²⁵	Moses, 1947
13 May 1849	One large baleen whale, which drifted ashore opposite Colaba church, Bombay	Editors, 1961
1864	A whale [no details] stranded at Masulipatam	Moses, 1947
1879	A 15 m (50 feet) long whale at Dwaraka	Moses, 1940
1883	A baby whale measuring 3.6 m (12 feet) at Varvala, near Dwaraka	Moses, 1940; Moses, 1947
1884	Whale of unknown length killed at Bombay by the “ <i>Euphrates</i> ”	Moses, 1947
December 1890	A whale of unknown length killed at Pamban by the “ <i>Abdur Rahman</i> ”	Moses, 1947; James & Soundararajan, 1979
1891	An 18 m (60 feet) whale stranded at Mangalore; skeleton in the Madras Museum	Moses, 1947; James & Soundararajan, 1979

²² The dates, details and locations of the last two records suggest one specimen was involved.

²³ It has been pointed out that this length is greater than that of any known species of whale.

²⁴ Possibly the same specimen referred to by Jerdon (1867).

²⁵ Jerdon (1867) mentions a similar record; probably the same specimen.

1901	A 21.9 m (73 feet) whale stranded near Cape Comorin; bones with the Bombay Natural History Society	Moses, 1947
January 1904	A big whale stranded at Rajakkamangalam	Poduval, 1937
11 April 1906	An 18.9 m (63 feet) whale stranded at Bassein (Thana District)	Moses, 1947; Millard, 1906
9 January 1911 [?]	One large whale about 21 m (70 feet) long washed ashore near Viziadrag in Ratnagiri district, "some miles south of Bombay" ²⁶	Kinnear, 1911; Prater, 1915
August 1912	An 18.3 m (61 feet) long rorqual stranded at Ratnagiri	Moses, 1947; Prater, 1915
1919	A 21.3 m (71 feet) whale near Tithor, up the Mahisagar river [Gujarat?]	Moses, 1940
January 1923	Rorqual at Madai (Malabar)	Moses, 1947
October 1924	Whale of unknown length stranded at Gullalamedu lighthouse, Divi, Kistna District	Moses, 1947
December 1924	14.4 m (48 feet) specimen stranded at Karwar	Moses, 1947
1924?	One whale, length unknown, stranded at Pudiangadi (Calicut)	Moses, 1947
July 1925	11.4 m (38 feet) long rorqual at Westhill, Calicut	Moses, 1947
1926	14.4 m (48 feet) specimen stranded at Baliapatam, Cannanore; skeleton at St. Aloysius College, Mangalore	Moses, 1947
1927	6.6 m (22 feet) whale stranded at Chala, Tellicherry	Moses, 1947
1928?	9 m (30 feet) specimen stranded at Gogha (Kathiawar)	Moses, 1947
1931	21.9 m (73 feet) whale stranded at Shika (Jamnagar)	Moses, 1947
February 1934	Baleen whale stranded at Jambudwip (Moor's Island/New Island), lying between Lacam's Channel and Gasper Channel, south of Sagar island	Jones, 1953
May 1934	15.6 m (52 feet) long rorqual at Colaba, Bombay	Moses, 1947
1934	Whale stranded at Parur, Travancore	Moses, 1947
March 1935	15 m (50 feet) whale stranded at Vadanapalli (Malabar)	Moses, 1947; James & Soundararajan, 1979
1935	Rorqual at Anjuna, Goa	Moses, 1947
4 February 1937	13.5 m (45 feet) baleen whale stranded at Pulluvila, south of Trivandrum, suspected to be a	Poduval, 1937

²⁶ Possibly the 21.3 m (71 feet) specimen listed by Moses (1947).

	Blue Whale ²⁷	
1937	Whale stranded near Danushkodi	Moses, 1947
March 1939	Whale bearing a harpoon, stranded in Bardez district, Goa	Moses, 1940
March 1939	15 m (50 feet) whale stranded at Anjuna, Goa	Moses, 1947
October 1939	15 m (50 feet) whale stranded near Cape Comorin	Moses, 1947
1939	24 m (80 feet) whale stranded between Suratkal and Moolki; skeleton in K. High School, Mangalore	Moses, 1947
1941?	Whale stranded at Broach	Moses, 1947
January 1942	20.1 m (67 feet) specimen stranded at Vadgam near Sabarmathi	Moses, 1947
February 1942	Whale stranded at Anjengo	Moses, 1947
March 1943	6.9 m (23 feet) whale stranded at Aramda (Okhamandal)	Moses, 1947
November 1945	16.8 m (56 feet) whale stranded at Moboro, Carmona, Goa	Moses, 1947
28 January 1947	13.5 m (45 feet) long <i>Balaenoptera</i> sp. whale stranded at Naduvattom, Calicut	Jacob & Devidas Menon, 1947; Moses, 1947
March 1947	21.6 m (72 feet) whale stranded at Chinnaganjam, Guntur	Moses, 1947
May 1947	12 m (40 feet) whale stranded at Ernakulam	Moses, 1947
12 April 1949	Immature 6 m (20 feet) long <i>Balaenoptera</i> sp. whale caught off Bombay	Pillai, 1949
April 1949	Rorqual near Thaikadapuram	Chacko & Mathew, 1954
September 1951	Rorqual near Gangoli [Malabar coast?]	Chacko & Mathew, 1954
10 December 1954	16.2 m (54 feet) long rorqual washed ashore near Badagara, Malabar coast	Chacko & Mathew, 1954
19 July 1959	7.8 m (26 feet) long <i>Balaenoptera</i> sp. whale driven ashore near Etumoga village, Kakinada	Lakshmana Rao, 1961
24 May 1961	Whale that capsized a fishing boat, off Punnakayal, south of Tuticorin, killing two men, may have been a Minke Whale	Silas, 1964
19 July 1962	21 m (70 feet) long <i>Balaenoptera</i> sp. whale found dead at Karangadu, near Devipattinam, Palk Bay	James & Soundararajan, 1979
July 1962	Seven whales washed ashore along the Palk Bay coast from Karangadu up to north of Point	James & Soundararajan, 1979

²⁷ Probably the same stranding recorded by Moses (1947) as having occurred at "Pullam, Travancore". Moses says that the skeleton is in the Travancore Museum.

21 April 1964	Calimere Whale 15.76 m long washed ashore at Muloor (13°25'N, 74°40.5'E), South Kanara	Nagabhushanam & Dhulkhed, 1964
7 February 1966	A 13.5 m (45 feet) <i>Balaenoptera</i> sp. whale at Muthukuda village, Mimisal, Tamilnadu	James & Soundararajan, 1979
5 December 1968	14.8 m long whale stranded at Mandrem, 20 km north of Panaji	Dhawan, 1970, 1972
26 February 1969	One 14.85 m long dead whale found floating off Baina towed to Panaji	Dhawan, 1970, 1972
January 1970	13.85 m baleen whale found at Canacona, south of Panaji	Dhawan, 1970
10 October 1979	<i>Balaenoptera</i> sp. whale at Chinna Monai village, near Mallipatnam	James & Soundararajan, 1979
18 February [1981?]	<i>Balaenoptera</i> sp. whale measuring 11.5 m stranded at Periathalai coast	Anonymous, 1981a
24 April [1981?]	6.25 m long <i>Balaenoptera</i> sp. whale caught by drift net 7 km off Vizhinjam	Anonymous, 1981b
14 April 1982	Forty baleen whales observed on a cruise from Madras to Trincomalee	Leatherwood, 1984
15 December [1983?]	One whale stranded at Peddaganjampallipalem, Chirala taluk, Prakasam district, Andhra Pradesh ²⁸	Chandrasekar Rao, 1983
18 May 1985	Baleen whale 9.3 m long stranded at Pudupatinam, near Adhiramapattinam	Kasinathan, 1986
16 April 1987	A whale measuring 13.7 m washed ashore at Nadibag, near Ankola	Telang, 1987
29 April 1987	<i>Balaenoptera</i> sp. whale washed ashore at Hollengade, south of Kumta, Karnataka coast, measured about 17 m in length	Telang, 1987
April–June 1988 [?]	Three baleen whales (lengths 9, 18 and 23 m) stranded at Bombay and Gujarat	Anonymous, 1988b; Seshagiri Rao, 1991
11 September 1994	A carcass found at Valinokkam Bay (Gulf of Mannar)	Lipton et al., 1995
13 October 1994	A 12 m carcass found at Vedalai, Gulf of Mannar	Lipton et al., 1995
14 September 1995	12 m long <i>Balaenoptera</i> sp. whale stranded at Ullal, near Mangalore	Muthiah, 1995
?	9 m long <i>Balaenoptera</i> sp. whale stranded at Kadapuram near Anchangadi, Trichur district	Baby, 1996b
12 December 1995	A 22 m long live whale stranded	Lal Mohan, 1996c

²⁸ Listed as a Sperm Whale *Physeter macrocephalus* by James (1990).

on the rocky shore of Cape Comorin

28 September 1996	Baleen whale carcass 16 m long floating near Keni, Harikantrawada, Ankola, Karnataka	Kakati, 1997
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Family BALAENIDAE

Table 28 Black Right Whale *Balaena glacialis* (Mueller 1776)

Date	Details	References
November 1944	Stranding of a 21.3 m (71 feet) long specimen at Gajana, Baroda state (Gujarat)	De Silva, 1987; James & Soundararajan, 1979

Order SIRENIA

Family DUGONGIDAE

Table 29 Dugong *Dugong dugon* (Mueller 1776)

Date	Details	References
1877	One caught in net near Sachana, northeast of Jamnagar	Frazier & Mundkur, 1990
1889	One caught at Pamban with a young one	Thurston, 1895
April 1893	Carcass washed ashore at Mandvi, Cutch coast, skull presented to the Bombay Natural History Society by C.M. Sykes	Thurston, 1895
1905?	A 2.9 m (9.5 feet) dugong from Kilakarai measured by Annandale	Prater, 1928
1910	Female dugong from Tuticorin presented to the Madras Museum by James Hornell	Prater, 1928
1918?	One captured between Krusadai and Koipadu islands	Prater, 1928
1928–1929	Five dugongs caught at Rameswaram in fishermen's nets	Prater, 1929
8 March 1929 [?]	Female carrying a young, harpooned in the Andamans	Prater, 1929
29 May 1950	A full-grown dugong washed ashore at Mandapam Camp, Gulf of Mannar coast	Jones, 1959
23 March 1955	0.95 m live specimen caught [Gulf of Mannar?] and kept in the Mandapam aquarium	Jones, 1959
14 June 1955	2.12 m live specimen caught [Gulf of Mannar?]; lived in the Mandapam aquarium up to 22 July 1955	Jones, 1959
1955	Dead 1.10 m specimen at Adirampatnam	Jones, 1959
26 December 1956	2.5 m live specimen caught [Gulf of Mannar?]; lived for four	Jones, 1959

	months in the Mandapam aquarium	
17 July 1959	Dead animal found floating near Kalyan lighthouse	Mani, 1960; Silas, 1961
30 July [1959?]	A 3.9 m (13 feet) female landed by the same fisherman who found the 1959 Kalyan specimen	Mani, 1960; Silas, 1961
2 October 1959	1.6 m long male caught in turtle net beyond Hare Island, Gulf of Mannar ²⁹	Jones, 1959
6 December 1959	1.96 m long female caught beyond Hare Island, Gulf of Mannar ³⁰	Jones, 1959
?	1.6 m live dugong in the aquarium at Mandapam Camp	Silas, 1961
7 January 1962	Bones of two dugongs stranded at Piroton Island, Gulf of Kutch	Lal Mohan, 1963
6 March 1962	2.725 m long specimen entangled in gillnet brought to Salaya, Gulf of Kutch	Lal Mohan, 1963
January 1971–September 1975	146 caught in nets set for fishes in the Gulf of Mannar and Palk Bay	Lal Mohan, 1976
31 May 1974	Young male 1.45 m long and a female 1.85 m long in aquarium at Mandapam Camp	Nair & Lal Mohan, 1975
8 July 1977	One caught in gillnets off Port Blair	Sivaprakasam, 1980
15 June 1978	Decomposed carcass of male found on Bhaidar Island, Gulf of Kutch	Frazier & Mundkur, 1990
April 1983– August 1984	More than 250 Dugongs caught and butchered at Kilakarai and Periapatnam	Silas & Bastian Fernando, 1985
3 September 1983	Two beached animals, one female and one male, found at Bet Dwarka, Gulf of Kutch	Frazier & Mundkur, 1990
September 1983	One caught by fishermen at Thonithurai	Silas & Bastian Fernando, 1985
December 1983	One caught at Mandapam by fishermen	Silas & Bastian Fernando, 1985
August 1984	Six Dugongs dynamited in a single day off Thiruppalaikudi	Silas & Bastian Fernando, 1985
16 December 1986	3.10 m male specimen killed in the Gulf of Mannar landed at Mandapam	Krishna Pillai, Ambrose et al., 1989
5 January 1987	Bones from at least three individuals found on Bet Dwarka island, Gulf of Kutch	Frazier & Mundkur, 1990
7 January 1987	Carcass of a male 1.72 m long	Frazier & Mundkur, 1990

²⁹ Apparently the same Dugong reported by Nair et al. (1975) to have died in July 1970, by when it had grown to a length of 207 cm.

³⁰ This would be the same Dugong reported by Nair et al. (1975), though they say that it was male. It grew to 226 cm by the time it died in August 1970.

	found floating near Poshitra Point, Gulf of Kutch	
July 1989	One dead Dugong found near Pilo Kunji of the Great Nicobars	Das & Dey, 1999
29 September 1990	A young Dugong with 1.55 m long calf, the latter killed, at Periapatnam, Gulf of Mannar	Krishna Pillai & Badrudeen, 1991
1990–1997	Sightings in the Andaman islands: six Dugongs near Landfall Island, six near Ritchie’s Archipelago and five near Little Andaman and Dugong Creek; in the Nicobars, five Dugongs near Katchall, 10 near Camorta Island, four specimens around Little Nicobar and four around Great Nicobar Island	Das & Dey, 1999
19 February 1997	One 2.63 m long female Dugong caught and brought dead to shore at Hut Bay, Little Andamans	Das & Dey, 1999
December 2000	One adult and one young Dugong observed near Manoli Island, near Rameswaram	J.C. Daniel, personal communication

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