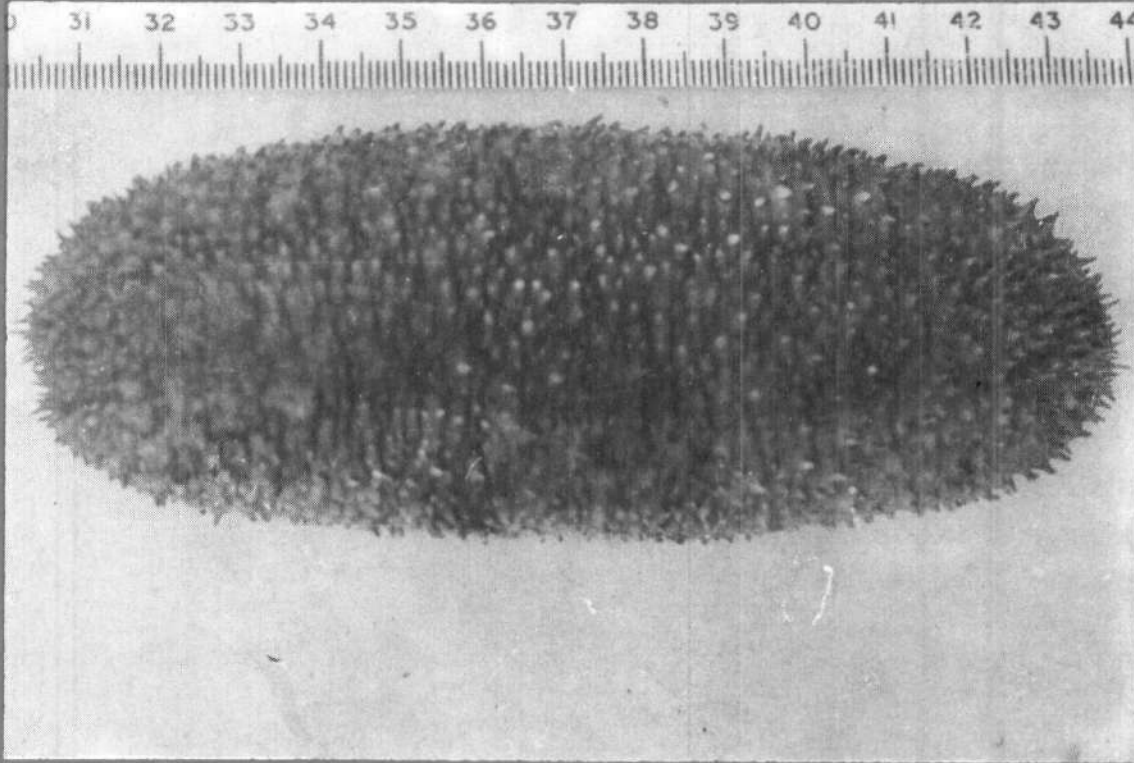




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केन्द्रीय समुद्री मात्स्यकी CENTRAL MARINE FISHERIES
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INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

A BLUE WHALE *BALAENOPTERA MUSCULUS* LANDED AT MANGAMARIPETA, NORTH OF VISAKHAPATNAM *

A live male Blue whale *Balaenoptera musculus* Linnaeus locally called "papper meenu" measuring 12.17 m in total length was entangled accidentally on 9th May 1994 in a synthetic drift gillnet operated by a mechanised-cum-sail craft at a depth of 50 metres off Mangamaripeta which is situated 12 km north of Visakhapatnam. The fishermen towed the Blue whale to the Mangamaripeta marine fish landing centre.



Fig.1. The Blue whale, *Balaenoptera musculus* on the beach at Mangamaripeta.

The details of morphometric measurement (in cm) are given below

Total length (tip of upper jaw to tip of caudal fin) ... 1217
Tip of upper jaw to notch of caudal fluke 1173

Tip of upper jaw to origin of dorsal fin	....	772
Breadth of the dorsal fin base	....	57
Length of the dorsal fin	....	52
Tip of upper jaw to anterior insertion of flipper	....	350
Length of flipper	....	168
Length at base of flipper	....	111
Maximum breadth of flipper	....	49
Tip of upper jaw to bifurcation point of lower jaw	....	234
Length of upper jaw	....	244
Length of lower jaw	....	276
Tip of upper jaw to centre of blow hole	....	194
Breadth of blow hole	....	17
Tip of upper jaw to centre of eye	....	230
Eye diameter	....	15
Tip of upper jaw to centre of genital slit	....	804
Tip of upper jaw to centre of anus	....	857
Distance between origin of anus and caudal fluke	....	335
Distance between anus and genital slit	....	82
Body circumference at the anterior side of flipper	....	473
Body depth at head region	....	206
Circumference at tip of snout	....	57
Circumference at origin of dorsal fin	....	440
Circumference at origin of flipper	....	662
Circumference at origin of genital slit	....	438
Circumference at origin of anus	....	376
Height of body	....	246
Distance between extremities of caudal fluke	....	266
Length of genital organ	....	103
Estimated weight (tonnes)	....	15
Sex	....	Male
No. of throat grooves	....	85
Length of flipper in total length	....	1:7

Information on the capture/stranding of Blue whale along the Indian coasts is given in Table - 1.

TABLE 1. Strandings/capture of blue whale *Balaenoptera musculus* Linnaeus along the Indian coasts

Sl. No.	Date of stranding/capture	Place	Total length of the specimen and sex	Reported by	Reference
1.	25-5-1966	Calicut	13.51 m	G. Venkataraman and K.G. Girijavallabhan	<i>J. mar. biol. Ass. India</i> , 8 (1 & 2) : 373 - 374, (1966)
2.	20 - 12-1976 (Stranded)	Off Ovari, Gulf of Mannar	6.35 m (Female)	R. Marichamy, M.E. Rajapandian and A. Srinivasan	<i>J. mar. biol. Ass. India</i> , 26 (1 & 2) : 168 - 170 (1984)
3.	31-9-1985 (Stranded)	Chappa beach, Narakkal, Cochin	10.30 m (Male)	K. V. Somasekharan Nair and A. A. Jayaprakash	<i>Mar. Fish. Infor. Serv., T & E Ser.</i> , No. 71 : 17-18, (1987)
4.	10-12-1988 (Washed ashore)	Motupalli Prakasam District, Andhra Pradesh	15.16 m (Male)	T. Chandrasekha Rao and A. Hanumantha Rao	<i>Mar. Fish. Infor. Serv., T & E Ser.</i> No. 102 : 13-16, (1989)
5.	2-5-1993 (Stranded)	Chellanam, Cochin	26 m	P.S.B.R James, N.G. Menon and N.G.K. Pillai	<i>Mar. Fish. Infor. Serv., T & E Ser.</i> , No. 122 : 23-24

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