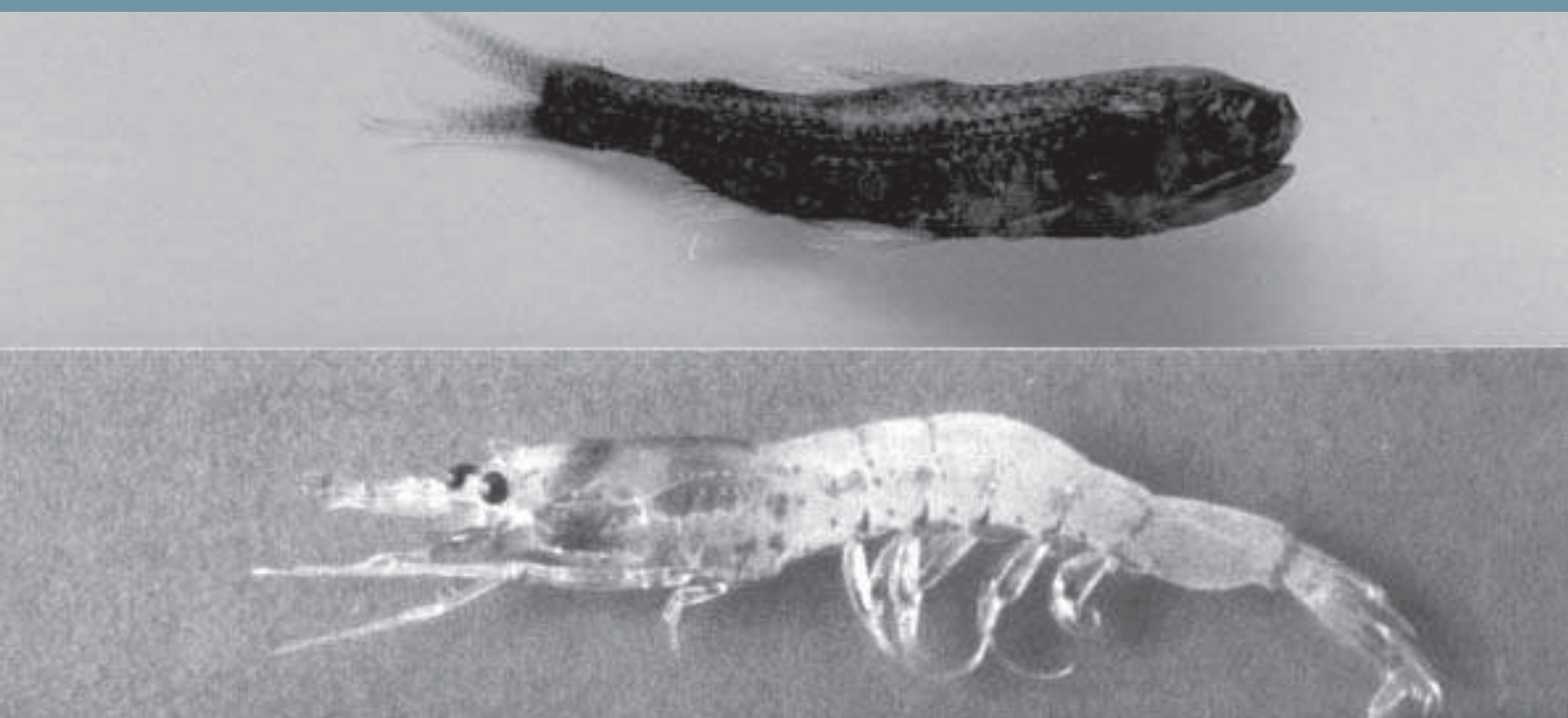




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1109 Record of stranded whales along Karnataka coast

A whale was stranded in the beach of Gujjerbettu, Udupi district, Karnataka in the early hours on 21.12.2001. The whale was found in live condition. The local person tried to rescue it but was in vain and later it died. The whale was identified as *Balaenoptera musculus* (Blue whale). Locally the animal is called as 'Thimmgala'.

Blue whale was identified with the help of following characters. The dorsal fin was very small (about 1% of the total length) and set far back on body. Long ventral pleats present and extending even to the navelpart, upper jaw relatively flat when viewed from the side and broad when viewed from the top. Some morphometric measurement (m) of the blue whale are given below.

Body characters	Length (m)
Total length (tip of upper jaw to the deepest part of notch between flukes)	12.3
Upper jaw (snout to opening of upper jaw)	2.71
Lower jaw (snout to opening	

of lower jaw)	2.44
Girth maximum (transverse plane intersecting dorsal fin)	2.9
Flipper length (axilla to tip)	1.65
Width fluke (tip to tip)	1.57

A whale was stranded at Uchila near Padubidiri, Udupi district, Karnataka on 13.04.2004 at around 6.00 pm. It was washed ashore in decayed condition and identified as baleen whale belonging to the genus of *Balaenoptera*. The total length of the whale was 9.8m. The animal was found with its ventral portion upside, the vertebrae and the baleen plates were found exposed in the beach. Few vertebrae have been collected and preserved in the museum of Mangalore Research Centre of CMFRI for future identification up to the species level.

Another whale (genus : *Balaenoptera*) was stranded in Kota, Udupi district, Karnataka near the shore of Arama temple on 11.08.2004 in decayed condition. Only total length could be taken which was 10.7 m in length.

Reported by : Anoop. A. Krishnan, Prathibha Rohit, A.P. Dineshbabu, T. Harish Nayak, and S. Keparaju, Mangalore Research Centre of CMFRI, Mangalore