

INCIDENCE OF AMBERGRIS WASHED ASHORE

Ambergris is a valuable substance obtained from Sperm whale. It is either found floating in the sea or obtained by cutting open the animal. It is produced in the intestine and retained mostly in the colon. Ambergris is a solid inflammable waxy substance. When fresh, it has an offensive odor but gives off sweet earthy odor on drying. It is extensively used in the perfume industry as a fixative. It also finds use in Ayurvedic and Homeopathy systems of medicine. On the 2nd fortnight of March, 1.5 to 2kg of ambergris was washed ashore in 3 coastal villages near Bhatta in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh as reported by Shri. K.V.S. Seshagiri Rao, Technical Officer, Ongole Field Centre. It was of medium quality and was sold at Rs. 20,000 to 25,000/- kg.