

## CETACEANS STRANDED, CAPTURED OR SIGHTED IN THE SPANISH COASTS DURING 1976-1979

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### RESUM

**Cetacis embarrancats, capturats o observats a les costes de l'Estat espanyol durant 1976-1979**

En el present treball hom dóna compte de la informació recollida per la Comissió de Cetologia de la Institució Catalana d'Història Natural i pel Departament de Vertebrats del Museu de Zoologia de Barcelona dels cetacis embarrancats, capturats o observats a les costes de l'Estat espanyol des de 1976 fins al 1979. Es dóna una relació de les espècies, sexe, longitud total, biometria i altres dades de cada animal. També s'hi inclou una petita discussió sobre la situació de cada espècie en el moment actual. Durant aquest període de temps s'han fet cites de **Balaenoptera physalus**, **B. borealis**, **Megaptera novaeangliae**, **Eubalaena glacialis**, **Physeter macrocephalus**, **Ziphius cavirostris**, **Delphinus delphis**, **Stenella coeruleoalba**, **Tursiops truncatus**, **Globicephala melaena** i **Grampus griseus**, i també de l'embarrancament d'un animal, possiblement del gènere **Mesoplodon**.

### INTRODUCTION

The present report compiles the information collected during the 1976-79 period from the Cetaceans stranded on the Spanish coasts, and that coming from sightings and captures which, in some cases have been made out of the Spanish jurisdiction waters.

A total of 29 strandings, 13 captures and 13 sightings are listed, including 4 baleen whale and 8 toothed whale species.

The information of the 1976-78 period was surveyed by the Comissió de Cetologia of the Institució Catalana d'Història Natural, but it practically gave up its func-

tion at the end of 1978; so then, although being carried out nearly by the same investigators, the task was assumed by the Department of Vertebrates of the Zoological Museum of Barcelona.

The sightings were mainly made on board of fishing boats. Although the reports of observed cetaceans have been very numerous, the authors have considered only those made by trained people or those having a photographic record, and from which not any doubt on the identification remained.

From each stranded or captured cetacean, data on species, sex, locality, morphometrics and date were noted. Never-

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theless, when it has been available, the carcass, the ecto- and endoparasites, the stomach contents and some tissue samples for analyze in search of organochlorine and heavy metals residue levels have also been collected.

The way of recording the body measurements was that reported by PELEGRÍ (1980).

The preserved material is in the following collections: Comissió de Cetologia of the ICHN (CCICHN), Zoological Museum of Barcelona (MZB), Department of Zoology (Vertebrates) of the University of Barcelona (ZVUB) and the Natural History Museum of Mataró (MHNM).

A comprehensive work on the Cetaceans stranded on the Iberian Peninsula until 1975 is the one of CASINOS & VERICARD (1976). CASINOS & FILELLA (1975) and PELEGRÍ (1980) compile the data collected by the Comissió de Cetologia of the Institució Catalana d'Història Natural in the years 1973 and 1974-75, respectively. Some other stranded cetaceans of our coasts are also reported by REY & CENDRERO (1979), CENDRERO (1976) and PÉREZ (1979a, 1979b).

The scientific names in the species account are followed by the common English, Spanish and Catalan names.

## SPECIES ACCOUNT

### MYSTICETI

#### A) BALAENOPTERIDAE

*Balaenoptera physalus* Linné 1758; fin whale; rorcual común; roqual comú.

BP 5. (15.1.1976): Stranded dying in the harbour of La Colonia de San Pedro (Majorca). Reported by the newspaper «Balears».

T.L.: 17.5 m. Sex: Unknown.

No material was preserved.

BP 6. (3.3.1977): Specimen stranded dead at Mataró (Barcelona).

T.L.: 11.2 m. Sex: Female.

Preserved material: Skeleton (MHNM); Parasites (CCICHN).

Reporter: A. Masó.

BP A1. (13.10.1977): Three specimens were observed in the position 41° 25' N, 3°5' E. The animals were

swimming to the North. The depth to the bottom in that point was 420 m.

Reporters: A. Aguilar, E. Recasens.

BP 7. (4.6.1979): Stranded on S'Arenal d'en Moro, Favaritx (Minorca). It was reported by the magazine «Interviú».

T.L.: 18.5 m. Sex: Unknown.

No material was preserved.

*Balaenoptera borealis* Lesson 1821; sei whale; rorcual de Rudolph o norsteño; balena del nord.

BB 2. (19.9.1975): Captured by whaling boats and flensed at the Caneliñas factory. It was a very thin animal, and probably unhealthy. 340 baleen plates were counted in each row. For a more detailed description, see AGUILAR & PELEGRÍ (1980).

T.L.: 14.8 m. Sex: Female.

No material was preserved.

Reporters: S. Filella, J. Xampeny.

*Megaptera noveangliae* (Borowski 1781); humpback whale; yubarta o xibarte; balena geperuda.

MN 1. (12.7.1976): Caught by whaling boats and flensed at the same factory than BB 2. 386 baleen plates were counted in the right row. This specimen has been described by CASINOS *et al.* (1977).

T.L.: 10.5 m. Sex: Female.

Only baleen plates were collected (CCICHN).

Reporters: S. Filella, J. Pelegrí.

#### B) BALAENIDAE

*Eubalaena glacialis* Borowski 1781; Biscayan right whale; ballena vasca; balena basca.

EG 1. (?9.1977): One alone specimen was sighted off the Finisterre cape, about 44° N, 8° W, by a boat of the «Industria Ballenera S. A.». The gunner and crew of the boat are very trained people, so a mistake seems very improbable.

For more details, see AGUILAR (1980).

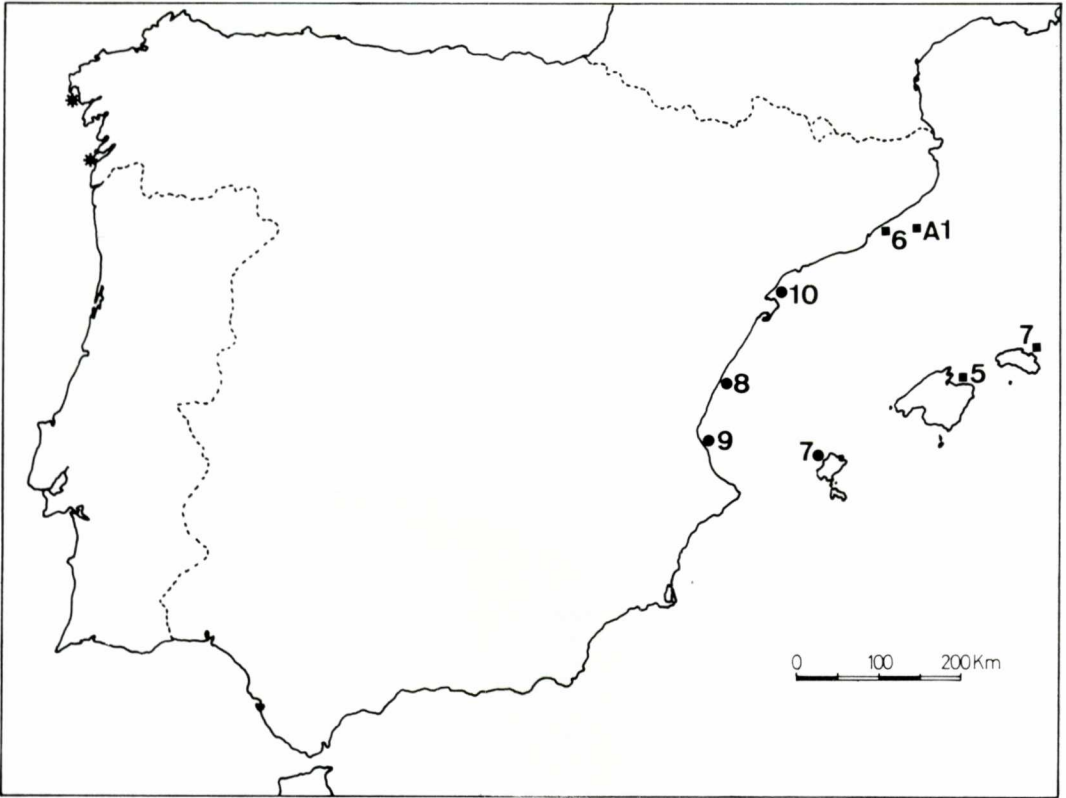


FIG. 1. Records of (cites de): ■ *Balaenoptera physalus*, ● *Physeter macrocephalus*. \* Localities of the actual land factories (localitats de les actuals factories baleneres a terra).

## ODONTOCETI

### C) PHYSETERIDAE

*Physeter macrocephalus* Linné 1758; sperm whale; cachalote; catxalot.

PM 7. (9.4.1977): Stranded alive on Cala Bou, Sant Antoni (Ibiza).

T.L.: 6.5 m. Sex: Female.

No material was preserved.

Reporter: A. Domingo.

PM 8. (?6.1978): Specimen stranded on the beach of Cabanes (Castellón). It was buried in the same beach and dugged up recently. The sex, total length and other features of the animal are unknown. The maximum length of the skull was 2.35 m.

Some osteological material have been preserved (MZB).

Reporter: Village authorities of Torreblanca.

PM 9. (5.8.1978): Dead stranded on the beach of El Perelló (Valencia). Length and sex are unknown, and no material was preserved.

Reporter: Village authorities of El Perelló.

PM 10. (?10.1979): An embryo or perhaps a newborn sperm whale stranded on the beach of L'Hospitalet de l'Infant (Tarragona).

T.L.: 3.5 m. Sex: Unknown.

Osteological material was preserved (MZB).

Reporter: F. Castellví.



TABLE 1. Morphometrics of *Stenella coeruleoalba* and *Dephinus delphis*. All measurements are expressed in centimeters.

1: Total length; 2: Tip of upper jaw to centre of eye; 3: Tip of upper jaw to apex of melon; 4: Length of gape (tip of upper jaw to angle of gape); 5: Tip of upper jaw to external auditory meatus; 6: Centre of eye to external auditory meatus; 7: Centre of eye to angle of gape; 8: Centre of eye to centre of blowhole; 9: Tip of upper jaw to blowhole centre, or to midlength of two blowholes; 10: Tip of upper jaw to anterior insertion of flipper; 11: Tip of upper jaw to tip of dorsal fin; 12: Tip of upper jaw to midpoint of umbilicus; 13: Tip of upper jaw to midpoint of genital aperture; 14: Tip of upper jaw to centre of anus; 15: Projection of lower jaw beyond upper; 17: Thickness of blubber, mid-dorsal, at anterior insertion of dorsal fin; 18: Thickness of blubber, mid-lateral at

Number-Número	SC8	SC9	SC12	SC11	SC14	SC18	SC15	SC16	SC19	SC20	DD9
Sex-Sexe	♀	♀	♂	♂	♂	?	♀	♂	♀	♂	♀
Date-Data	10.03. 1976	17.04. 1976	?08. 1976	18.08. 1976	06.04. 1977	?03. 1978	11.07. 1978	27.07. 1978	03.04. 1979	27.08. 1979	20.09. 1978
1	158	144	193	192	153	172	185	165	183	169	202
2	29	28	33	31.5	26	31	33	31	33	31.5	32.5
3	10.5	9	-	11.5	9	12	12	11.3	-	10.5	13.5
4	24	23	28	27	22	26	27.8	25.4	27	26	27
5	33	31	39	36.5	34	-	36	36	-	36	37.4
6	4.3	4.8	7	5	7.2	-	3.7	5	-	5	5.3
7	5.2	4.5	5	5	5.9	5	5.5	5.5	8	6	5.5
8	19	16.3	16	20.5	16.2	18	18	16	18	18	16
9	24	25	30	31.5	24.5	33	29	30.5	34	31	30
10	41	36	47	43.5	46	-	46	41	47	43	46
11	96	90	117	118	91	107	114.5	93.5	106	109	124
12	76	67.5	-	96	71	-	91.2	-	-	83.5	95.5
13	109	99.5	127	129	126	-	129.4	-	127	114	136
14	113	103.5	141	143	105	-	134.4	-	-	122.5	144
15	3	-	-	-	2	1	1.5	0.5	-	0.2	0.5
17	-	1.3	-	1.5	1	-	-	1.3	-	-	1.1
18	-	1.1	-	1.1	1	-	-	0.9	-	0.5	0.6
19	-	1.4	-	1.5	1.3	-	1.4	1.3	-	0.5	1
21	84	83	-	99	79	-	85.5	77.5	-	86	100
22	85.2	86	-	105.5	81	-	87	78.7	-	87	102.4
23	44.5	46	-	65	-	-	50.7	-	-	45	-
24	1.9	1.9	-	1.9	1.9	2	2.1	2.5	5	1.9	2.4
25(R)	1	1.2	-	-	-	-	1.3	-	-	-	2
25(L)	1.3	1.3	-	-	-	-	1.2	-	-	-	1.8
26(G)	7	-	15	11.5	6.4	-	11	-	-	11	11
26(A)	1.6	-	5	4.7	1.6	-	1	-	-	3.5	1.7
27(U)	1.5	2.1	-	1.2	2	-	1.4	1.3	-	1	1
27(L)	0.9	1.1	-	2.3	1.1	-	2	2	-	1.8	2.5
29	24.5	23	31	28.5	23	26	27.5	26.5	24	27	30.5
30	17.5	15.5	21	21	16	19	19.3	17.7	18	19.5	22
31	8	7	9.5	10	6.8	8	8.5	8.5	7	8.5	9.4
32	13	11.5	-	19	12.1	16	15.7	15	13	16	17.7
33	22.5	21	25	30	21	25	26.3	25.5	20	27	33
34	31	31	42	45.5	31	42	39.3	35.5	34	40	41
35	10.2	11.2	11	11.2	9.8	12	10.7	10.2	11	11.8	11.2
36	2	2.1	2	1.9	1.7	2	2.3	1.7	2	4	2

midlength; 19: Thickness of blubber, midventral, at midlength; 21: Girth, on a transverse plane intersecting axilla; 22: Maximum girth; 23: Girth on a transverse plane intersecting the anus; 24: Length of the eye; 25: Length of the mammary slits, (R) right, (L) left; 26 (G): Length of genital slit; 26 (A): Length of anal opening; 27 (W): Width of the blowhole; 27 (L): Length of the blowhole; 29: Length of the flipper (anterior insertion to tip); 30: Length of flipper (axilla to tip); 31: Width of flipper; 32: Height, dorsal fin (fin tip to base); 33: Length of the dorsal fin base; 34: Width of the flukes (tip to tip); 35: Distance from nearest point on anterior border of flukes to notch; 36: Depth of notch between flukes.

Biometria de *Stenella coeruleoalba* i *Delphinus delphis*. Totes les mesures estan donades en centímetres.

1: Longitud total; 2: Longitud des de la punta de la mandíbula superior al centre de l'ull; 3: Longitud des de la punta de la mandíbula superior fins a l'apex de la protuberància frontal; 4: Longitud des de la punta de la mandíbula superior a la comissura bucal; 5: Longitud des de la punta de la mandíbula superior a l'orifici auditiu extern; 6: Des del centre de l'ull a l'orifici auditiu; 7: Des del centre de l'ull a la comissura bucal; 8: Des del centre de l'ull al punt mitjà de l'espíacle; 9: Longitud des de la punta de la mandíbula superior a l'espíacle segons la línia mitjana, o al punt mitjà entre els dos espíacles; 10: Longitud desde la punta de la mandíbula superior fins a la inserció de l'aleta pectoral; 11: Longitud des de la punta de la mandíbula superior fins a la punta de l'aleta dorsal; 12: Longitud des de la punta de la mandíbula superior fins al punt mitjà del melic; 13: Longitud des de la punta de la mandíbula superior fins al punt mitjà de l'orifici genital; 14: Longitud des de la punta de la mandíbula superior fins al centre de l'anús; 15: Projectió de la mandíbula inferior sobre la superior; 17: Gruix del greix, a la línia mitja dorsal a l'inserció anterior de l'aleta dorsal; 18: Gruix del greix, a la línia mitja lateral a la semilongitud; 19: Gruix del greix, a la línia mitjana ventral a la semilongitud; 21: Perímetre, en el pla transversal en la intersecció de les axilles; 22: Perímetre màxim; 23: Perímetre, en un pla transversal de la intersecció amb l'anús; 24: Longitud de l'ull; 25 (R): Longitud de l'obertura mamària dreta; 24 (L): Longitud de l'obertura mamària esquerra; 26 (G): Longitud de l'orifici genital; 26 (A): Longitud de l'orifici anal; 27 (W): Amplada de l'espíacle; 27 (L): Longitud de l'espíacle; 29: Longitud de l'aleta pectoral (des de la inserció anterior fins a la punta); 30: Longitud de l'aleta pectoral (des de l'axilla fins a la punta); 31: Amplària màxima de l'aleta pectoral; 32: Altura de l'aleta dorsal (des de la punta fins a la base); 33: Longitud de la base de l'aleta dorsal; 34: Amplària de l'aleta caudal (de punta a punta dels dos lòbuls); 35: Distància des del punt més proper a l'extrem anterior dels lòbuls de la cua fins la fenedura; 36: Profunditat de la fenedura mitjana entre els lòbuls de la cua.

#### D) HYPEROODONTIDAE

*Ziphius cavirostris* (Cuvier 1823); Cuvier's beaked whale; ballena de Cuvier; balena de Cuvier.

ZC 6. (2.12.1979): The specimen was stranded alive on the beach of Cabanes (Castellón) and was launched again to the water by some fishermen. A few days later, the same animal appeared dead on a neighboring beach.  
T.L.: 6 m. Sex: Unknown.  
Some osteological material was preserved (MZB).  
Reporter: Village authorities of Torrealblanca.

*Mesoplodon sp.*;

M- 1. (25.8.1977): Some osteological remains were found in a beach near Brens (La Coruña) but, unfortunately, some parts of the skull were absent and the species identification was impossible. No biological data from this specimen are known.  
The osteological material was preserved (CCICHN).

#### E) DELPHINIDAE

*Delphinus delphis* Linné 1758; common dolphin; delfín común; dofí comú.

DD 9. (20.9.1978): Specimen stranded on El Prat (Barcelona).

T.L.: 202 cm. Sex: Female.  
Material preserved (CCICHN).

DD 10. (25.9.1979): This dolphin was caught by a fishing boat and transported to the Central Fish Market of Barcelona where it was sold. According to the manager of the market, the animal was captured off Vigo (Pontevedra).

Material preserved (CCICHN).

*Stenella coeruleoalba* (Meyen 1833); striped dolphin; delfín listado; dofí ratllat.

SC 7. (?2.1976): The specimen was found in a very rotten state on the beach of Mataró (Barcelona).

T.L.: 200 cm. Sex: Unknown.  
Material preserved (CCICHN).

Reporter: Village authorities of Mataró.

SC 8. (10.3.1976): Stranded on El Prat (Barcelona).

T.L.: 158 cm. Sex: Female.

TABLE 2. Teeth number of some *Stenella coeruleoalba*.  
 Nombre de dents d'algunes *Stenella coeruleoalba*.

	SC7	SC8	SC9	SC11	SC15	SC20
Upper jaw (right) Maxil.lar (dret)	39	36	34	41	41	37
Upper jaw (left) Maxil.lar (esquerre)	41	36	34	40	41	38
Lower jaw (right) Mandíbula (dreta)	40	36	36	36	42	37
Lower jaw (left) Mandíbula (esquerre)	41	37	35	37	42	39

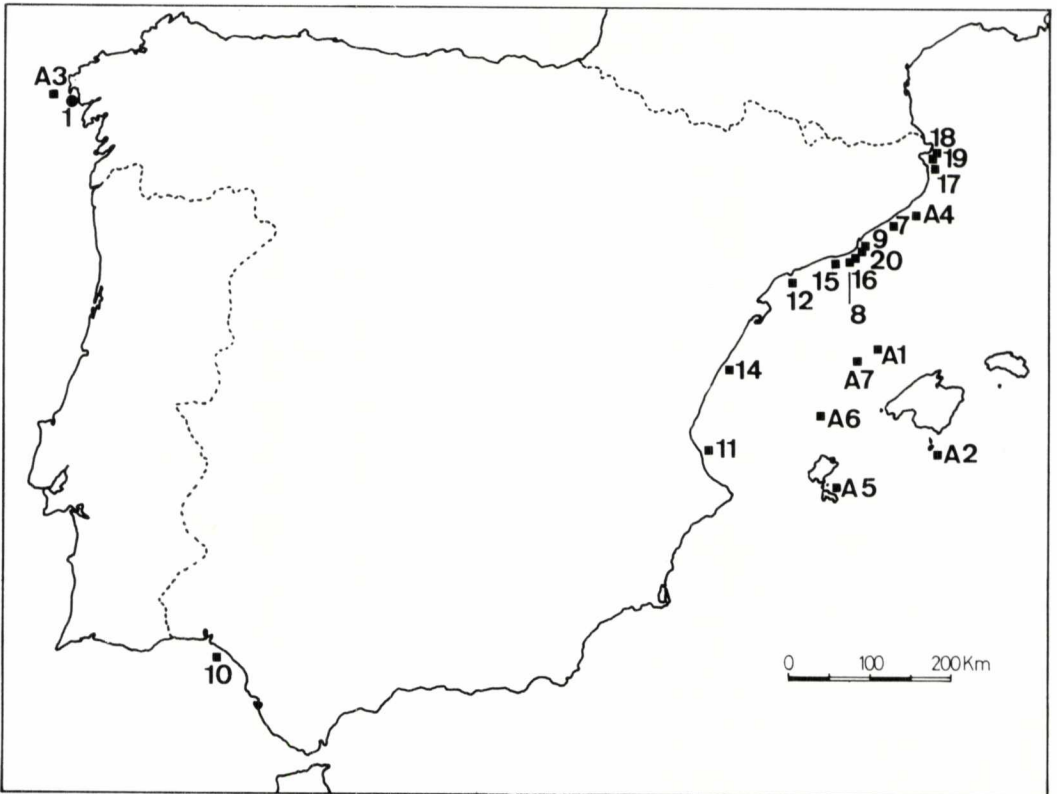


FIG. 2. Records of (cites de): ■ *Stenella coeruleoalba*, ● *Mesoplodon* (?).



- Material preserved (CCICHN).  
Reporter: O. Pallars.
- SC A1. (?3.1976): A group of six dolphins was photographed nearly in the position 40°17' N, 2°15' E.  
Reporter: A. Esteve.
- SC A2. (?3.1976): Fifteen specimens were photographed off Cabrera Island, nearly in the position 39°5' N, 2°55' E.  
Reporter: A. Esteve.
- SC 9. (17.4.1976): Stranded dead on the beach of Barcelona.  
T.L.: 144 cm. Sex: Female.  
Material preserved (CCICHN).  
Reporter: A. Rodríguez.
- SC 10. (21.5.1976): Specimen found dead on the beach of Matalascañas (Huelva).  
T.L.: Unknown. Sex: Male.  
No material was preserved.  
Reporter: J. M. Ruiz.
- SC 12. (?8.1976): Dolphin stranded dead with a big wound in an eye.  
T.L.: 193 cm. Sex: Male.  
Material preserved (CCICHN).  
Reporter: the newspaper «El Correo Catalán».
- SC 11. (18.8.1976): Stranded alive on El Perellonet (Valencia). Having some wounds, the animal was carried to the Valencia Zoo, where died after some days.  
T.L.: 192 cm. Sex: Male.  
Material preserved (CCICHN).  
Reporter: Zoo of Valencia.
- SC 14. (6.4.1977): Stranded on Oropesa (Castellón).  
T.L.: 153 cm. Sex: Male.  
Material preserved (CCICHN).  
Reporter: Guardia Civil of Oropesa.
- SC A3. (?8.1977): A group of 30-40 specimens was sighted off the coast of the Finisterre cape (La Coruña) nearly in the position 43° N, 9° 50' W.  
Reporters: E. Grau, J. Pelegrí.
- SC A4. (13.10.1977): Five dolphins were observed from a fishing boat. The animals were very probably feeding on pilchard and mackerel. The situation was 41°33' N, 2°55' E and water depth was 110 m.  
Reporters: A. Aguilar, E. Recasens.
- SC 17. (?1.1978): Stranded dead on Sant Pere Pescador (Girona). Any refer-  
ences on total length, sex or other biological data were not available.  
Reporter: J. Sargatal.
- SC 18. (?3.1978): Stranded on the beach of Roses (Girona).  
T.L.: 172 cm. Sex: Unknown.  
Material preserved (CCICHN).  
Reporter: J. Sargatal.
- SC 15. (19.7.1978): Specimen stranded dead on Castelldefels (Barcelona).  
T.L.: 185 cm. Sex: Female.  
Material preserved (CCICHN).  
Reporter: Zoo of Barcelona.
- SC 16. (27.7.1978): Stranded alive on El Prat (Barcelona); carried to the Zoo of Barcelona, it died few hours later.  
T.L.: 165 cm. Sex: Male.  
Material preserved (CCICHN).  
Reporter: Village authorities of El Prat.
- SC 19. (3.4.1979): Stranded on the beach of Roses (Girona).  
T.L.: 183 cm. Sex: Female.  
Material preserved (MZB).  
Reporter: J. Sargatal.
- SC A5. (12.7.1979): Three dolphins were seen off Formentera Island, nearly in the position 38°40' N, 1°10' E.  
Reporter: A. Aguilar.
- SC A6. (16.7.1979): A group of about thirty striped dolphins was observed swimming to the South in the position 39°58' N, 1°50' E.
- SC A7. (16.7.1979): Fifteen specimens were seen in the position 40°20' N, 1°55' E.  
Reporter: A. Aguilar.
- SC 20. (27.8.1979): Stranded dead on the beach of Barcelona.  
T.L.: 169 cm. Sex: Male.  
Material preserved (MZB).  
Reporter: Military Marine Authorities of Barcelona.
- Tursiops truncatus* (Montagu 1821); bottle-nose dolphin; delfín mular; molar.
- TT 14. (25.5.1976): Specimen stranded on Cala Macaralleta (Minorca). Only one photograph arrived to the Museum, and was impossible to get further information. Any kind of material was preserved.
- TT 15. (19.7.1976): Killed after being entangled in fishing nets at thirty meters of depth.  
T.L.: 242 cm. Sex: Female.

TABLE 3. Morphometrics of *Tursiops truncatus*, *Globicephala melaena*, *Grampus griseus*, *Balaenoptera physalus*, *B. borealis* and *Megaptera novaeangliae*. For explanation of measurements, see table 1. Biometria de *Tursiops truncatus*, *Globicephala melaena*, *Grampus griseus*, *Balaenoptera physalus*, *B. borealis* i *Megaptera novaeangliae*. Per a l'explicació de les mesures, veure la taula 1.

Number-Número	TT15	TT16	TT19	TT21	TT22	TT23	TT25	GM3	GG7	BP6	BB2	MN1
Sex-Sexe	♀	♂	♂	♀	♀	♂	♀	♂	♂	♀	♀	♀
Date-Data	19.07. 1976	03.09. 1976	14.12. 1978	09.09. 1978	09.09. 1978	09.09. 1978	22.09. 1979	27.03. 1977	?05. 1978	03.03. 1977	19.09. 1975	12.07 1976
1	242.3	-	244	215	219	210	183	500	295	1124	1480	1050
2	38.3	30	32.5	31	35.5	34.5	28.5	40	38	205	286	232
3	14	-	10.5	10.5	11	10	8.8	-	-	-	-	-
4	31.2	24	30.6	28.5	29.5	28	23.6	-	29	220	304	228
5	55	-	-	41	43	38	36	-	44	262	366	264
6	12.5	-	-	9.5	7.5	4.5	10.2	-	10	57	80	41
7	6.5	6	6.5	5.5	5	6	5.8	-	9	25	24	26
8	23.1	21.5	20	18	18.5	18.5	20.3	-	29	80	119	114
9	38.5	31	33.5	31	36	35	28	60	28.5	186	259	179
10	55.4	-	46.5	53	53	51.5	45	65	56	314	451	300
11	143	-	143	135	128	134	114	150	168.5	803	937	647.5
12	112.4	-	122	110	105	108	88	250	125	-	-	556
13	166	-	165.5	151	149	147	126	-	169	-	-	702
14	172.5	-	181.3	162	155	154	129	-	197	-	-	749.5
15	0.3	0.8	0.5	0.9	1.5	1.5	-	-	-	-	-	8
17	2.1	-	-	2.6	2.5	2	1.6	-	-	4	5	13
18	1.8	-	-	2.2	1.7	1.8	1.1	-	2.3	5.5	6	7
19	1.7	-	-	2.8	2.6	2.2	1.7	-	3	-	5	7
21	112	-	115	158	114	99	72	-	142	-	594	-
22	117	-	123	128	115	109	-	-	144	-	-	650
23	54	-	68	68	-	70	66	-	86	230	320	306
24	2.7	3	2.4	3.4	2	-	2	-	4.5	8.4	10	8
25(R)	1.7	-	-	1.1	1.1	-	1	-	-	19	23.5	10
25(L)	1.6	-	-	0.9	0.9	-	1	-	-	-	20	10.5
26(G)	10.5	-	9.7	11.5	12	13.5	7.5	-	28	-	74	66
26(A)	1.5	-	2.2	2.4	2	2.5	0.8	-	6	-	11	25
27(W)	1.8	2.5	1.5	1.8	1.5	1.8	1	-	2	13.8	-	-
27(L)	3.8	3	3.8	3.8	4	4	3	-	4	25.4	47	25
29	34.5	31	35.5	35	34.5	33	30	112	61	130	175	305
30	24	22	24.3	25.3	24	24.5	17.5	100	48	93	124	256
31	13.5	12.5	13	12.5	11.4	12	11.5	32	-	32.5	40	72.5
32	19	-	25	23	17.5	21	19	-	33.5	29	50	19
33	30.7	-	36	42	33	34	28	65	47	50	87	48
34	53	38	48.5	50	47	46.5	41.5	120	73	228	340	335
35	16	12.5	15	17	13.5	14.5	17	-	21	61	88	84.5
36	4.8	3	4.7	3.5	2.8	3.3	3.5	-	-	10	18.5	3

Material preserved (CCICHN).

Reporter: J. Massegué.

TT 16. (3.9.1976): Specimen captured by a fishing boat off Vinaròs (Castellón), and sold at the Central Fish Market of Barcelona. Only the

head and flippers were available.

T.L.: Unknown. Sex: Male.

Material preserved (CCICHN).

Reporter: F. Fernández.

TT 17. (?1.1977): Dolphin stranded on the beach of Salou (Tarragona).



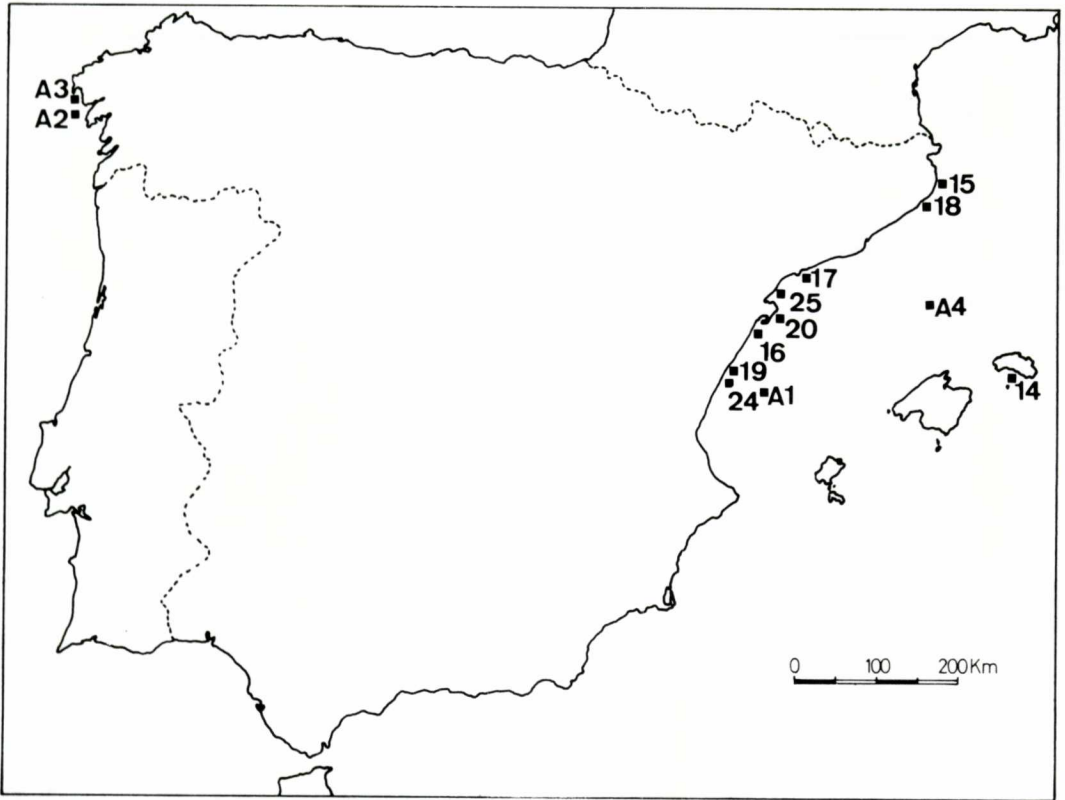


FIG. 3. Records of (cites de): *Tursiops truncatus*.

- Unfortunately, only some photographs reached us, and no more data were available.
- TT 18. (?3.1978): Skull found at Tamaríu (Girona). Any biological data are unknown.  
Material preserved (CCICHN).  
Reporter: A. Casinos.
- TT 19. (14.12.1978): Specimen stranded alive on the beach of Oropesa (Castellón) and died few hours later. T.L.: 244 cm. Sex: Male.  
Material preserved (CCICHN).  
Reporter: Guardia Civil of Oropesa.
- TT 20. (20.5.1979): This dolphin was captured close to the beach of the Ebro Delta and killed afterwards. Any kind of material was preserved and no data but a photograph is available.  
Reporter: B. Curtó.
- TT 21. (9.9.1978): Captured alive in an unspecified point of the northern Adriatic Sea, close to the Jugoslavian waters, and carried after to the Barcelona Zoo where it died a week later.  
T.L.: 215 cm. Sex: Female.  
No material preserved.
- TT 22. (9.9.1978): Captured like TT 21. Died eleven days after the capture. T.L.: 219 cm. Sex: Female.  
Material preserved (CCICHN).
- TT 23. (9.9.1978): Captured like TT 21. This one died sixteen days later. T.L.: 210 cm. Sex: Male.  
Material preserved (CCICHN).
- TT 24. (12.9.1979): Captured off the coast of Castellón and sold at the Central Fish Market of Barcelona. Only the head was available, and the length and sex are unknown.  
Material preserved (MZB).

TABLE 4. Teeth number of some *Tursiops truncatus*.  
 Nombre de dents d'alguns *Tursiops truncatus*.

	TT15	TT16	TT19	TT21	TT22	TT24	TT25
Upper jaw (right) Maxil.lar (dret)	22	22	20	19	20	19	21
Upper jaw (left) Maxil.lar (esquerre)	21	22	20	20	21	21	22
Lower jaw (right) Mandíbula (dreta)	20	20	20	18	20	21	22
Lower jaw (left) Mandíbula (esquerre)	20	20	20	18	20	20	22

- TT 25. Reporter: C. Andreu.  
 (22.9.1979): Captured and killed by a fishing net off L'Ametlla de Mar (Tarragona).  
 T.L.: 183 cm. Sex: Female.  
 Material preserved (MZB).
- TT A1. Reporter: C. Andreu.  
 (?7.1976): Two specimens were photographed off the coast of Castellón, at a distance of about 4-5 km of the coastline. The position was nearly 39°57' N, 0°7' E.  
 Reporter: A. Esteve.
- TT A2. (?8.1977): A group of six specimens was observed nearly in the position 42°50' N, 9°15' W.  
 Reporters: E. Grau, J. Pelegrí.
- TT A3. (?8.1977): Two dolphins were seen close to the coast off Cee (La Coruña). The position was 42°54' N, 9°12' W.  
 Reporters: E. Grau, J. Pelegrí, G. Riba.
- TT A4. (16.7.1979): A group of eight specimens was photographed about the position 40°40' N, 2°55' E.  
 Reporter: C. Prat.

phs reached us, so any kind of biological data is unknown.  
 No material was preserved at all.  
 Reporter: J. Cano.

- Grampus griseus* (Cuvier 1812); Risso's dolphin; delfín de Risso; cap d'olla gris.
- GG 8. (17.2.1978): Captured by a fishing boat in an unespecified point of the coast off Vigo (Pontevedra) and sold at the Central Fish Market of Barcelona. Only the head and the flippers were available, so many data on the animal are unknown.  
 Material preserved (CCICHN).
- GG 7. (?5.1978): Captured alive in the waters off Castellón and sold afterwards at the Central Fish Market of Barcelona.  
 T.L.: 295 cm. Sex: Male.  
 Material preserved (ZVUB).

*Globicephala melaena* (Trail 1809); pilot whale; calderón; cap d'olla.

- GM 3. (27.3.1977): This specimen stranded on the beach of Pinedo (Valencia).  
 T.L.: 500 cm. Sex: Male.  
 Material preserved (CCICHN).  
 Reporter: M. Jordán.
- GM 4. (?11.1977): Stranded on Motrico (Guipúzcoa). Only some photogra-

## DISCUSSION

With regard to the Atlantic whales, almost the whole of the information arise from the whaling industry placed in the NW coasts of Spain (see figure 1). Two land factories and some five boats are working at present. The season usually begins in May-June and concludes in November-December, with a maximum of captures in August.

Although the usual catch is on sperm

and fin whales, some other species could be chased too.

CASINOS *et al.* (1977) described a female *Megaptera novaeangliae* of 10.5 m caught in July 1976 and estimated that two more humpback whales had been landed at the factories since 1960.

While we have not certain by identified Bryde or blue whales, it is likely that a few animals of these species could appear occasionally in that area.

A *Balaenoptera borealis* captured in September 1975 by the same whaling industry is reported by AGUILAR & PELEGRÍ (1980); it was a very thin female of 14.8 m of total length. From the staff of the factories, it is known that few whales named as «*ballenas de pintas*» are killed from time to time, but it's completely impossible to ascertain if they are sei or Bryde's whales.

With regard to the right whale, *Eubalaena glacialis*, no alive whale has been reported since 1878, when one animal of

this species was captured in Guetaria-Zarauz (SORALUCE, 1878). After AGUILAR (1980), the right whale sighted by the boat of the «*Industria Ballenera, S. A.*» would be the only reliable indication of the presence, at least occasionally, of this species in our waters. The gunner and crew of the whaling boats are very trained people and know perfectly the different cetaceans shape, so a mistake would be very improbable.

The fin whale, *Balaenoptera physalus*, seems the more abundant species in the capture and, in the 1978 season, 402 whales were caught (INTERNATIONAL WHALING STATISTICS, 1979). After the gunners' opinion, the fin whale becomes more scarce when going into the Cantabrian Sea.

Something very similar could happen with the sperm whale, *Physeter macrocephalus*, being the old males the only animals of this species that go into the Cantabrian waters. After PÉREZ (1979), a sperm whale stranded on a beach near Gijón (As-

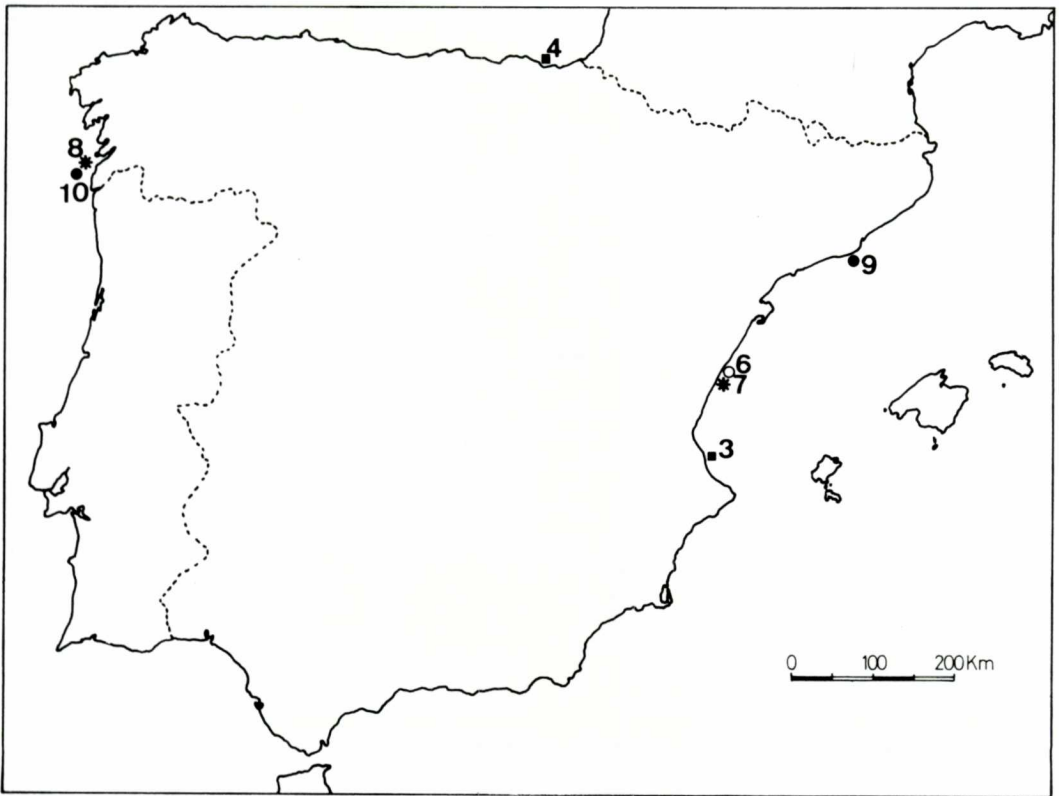


FIG. 4. Records of (cites de): ○ *Ziphius cavirostris*, \* *Grampus griseus*, ■ *Globicephala melaena*, ● *Delphinus delphis*.



turias) in 1977 was a male of 10.6 m of total length. In the Atlantic coasts, the sperm whales have progressively become more scarce in the catches, being difficult for the authors to ascertain if the reason is a real decimation of the stock size or a lack of interest of the whaling industry on that species, due to the decrease of the value of the sperm whale products. According to the INTERNATIONAL WHALING STATISTICS (1979), the catch in 1978 was of 180 animals.

In Mediterranean waters both species, the fin and the sperm whales, seem rather common and are often sighted by the fishing boats.

*Ziphius cavirostris*, *Globicephala melae-na* and *Grampus griseus* are common species represented usually in the strandings, both in the Atlantic and Mediterranean coasts.

The actual situation of *Stenella coeruleoalba* and *Delphinus delphis* in the Mediterranean area has been reviewed by CASINOS & FILELLA (1976), and by PELEGRÍ (1980). The first species is the most frequent and sighted cetacean, being the second one much more scarce. After DUGUY & ALONCLE (1974), the situation in the Atlantic Ocean would be the opposite, and *D. delphis* appears to be the commonest dolphin.

The bottlenose dolphin, *Tursiops truncatus*, seems to be one of the commonest cetaceans of the Spanish coasts. Many of the reports come from captures (50 %) due in part to its valuability for training exhibitions but mainly to the fact that this dolphin is often entangled and killed by fishing nets.

The stranding of an animal of the genus *Mesoplodon* on the NW coast would be the first report of this genus in our country. Unfortunately, the lack of some parts of the skull made impossible the species determination, but it is suggested that it could be a *M. bidens* or a *M. densirostris*, being the first one seldom reported in the southern coasts of France (DUGUY, 1973, 1976), and the second only once in a beach near Cascais, Portugal (REINER, 1979).

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