

RECORD OF A NEONATE DWARF SPERM WHALE, *KOGIA SIMA* (OWEN, 1866) STRANDED ON THE COAST OF BAHIA, NORTHEASTERN BRAZIL¹

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On 9 February 2005, at around 11:00h, a male neonate *Kogia sima* was rescued on Itapuã beach (12°57'22"S, 38°21'30"W), Salvador, Bahia, and the CRMA (Centro de Resgate de Mamíferos Aquáticos) network was informed. According to witnesses, the neonate was found alive but injured on the rocks. At the time of collection, the animal had already died. The carcass was in a code 2 condition (Geraci and Lounsbury, 1993) and was not bloated (Figure 1a). The teeth were unerupted and the throat grooves were absent, a fact probably related to its young age. It had various external scratches and was missing a relatively small portion (~5%) of its epidermis due to trauma from shocks against reef rocks (Figure 1b). The animal measured 72.5cm in total length from tip of snout to tail notch [using a tape measure of 0.5cm precision; morphometrics adapted from Norris (1961)] and had a body mass of 10kg (measured with a balance scale of 100g precision). Evidence of recent scarring of the navel, as well as the presence of milk in the stomach (identified by its greasy consistency and viscosity)

indicated that the animal was lactating. All materials collected were deposited in the Scientific Collection of the Instituto Mamíferos Aquáticos, under classification number CCPM0209.

Considering the known range in total length for newborn *K. sima* (100-130cm) and comparing the case reported here with reported values for total body length (mean 95.4cm, maximum-minimum values 72.5-112.5cm and sd 14.08cm) (Kami and Lujan, 1976; Ross, 1979; Caldwell and Cadwell, 1989; Debrot and Barros, 1992; Hetzel and Lodi, 1993; Jefferson *et al.*, 1993; Brito, 1996⁴; Soto and Ternes-da-Silva, 1998⁵; Marcondes *et al.*, 2002⁶; Shirihai and Jarrett, 2006), it is evident that the specimen reported here (72.5cm) was much smaller. While we do not discount that this individual may have been an outlier, we suggest that the range be lowered to 72.5-130cm. Little is known about the biology of *K. sima* in Brazilian waters, and globally the species is classified as 'Data Deficient' (IUCN, 2010⁷).



Figure 1. Neonate male dwarf sperm whale, *Kogia sima*, stranded at Itapuã beach, Salvador, Bahia (CCPM0209). (a) Lateral full body view. (b) Lateral head view.

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⁴ BRITO, J.L. (1996) Segundo registro de *Kogia simus* para la costa de Chile. Page 82 in Anais da 7º Reunión de Trabajo de Especialistas em Mamíferos Acuáticos de América del Sur e 1º Congreso de la Sociedad Latinoamericana de Especialistas em Mamíferos Acuáticos, Viña Del Mar, Chile, 22-25 October 1996.

⁵ SOTO, J.M.R. and TERNES-SILVA, S. (1998) Novos registros de *Kogia breviceps* e *Kogia simus* (Cetacea, Physeteridae, kogiinae) no sul do Brasil e revisão dos registros em águas Brasileiras. Page 270-272 in Resumos XI Semana Nacional de Oceanografia, Fundação Universidade do Rio Grande, Rio Grande.

⁶ MARCONDES, M.C.C.; LUNA, F.O.; LIMA, R.P. (2002) Rescue and care of a neonate dwarf sperm whale (*Kogia simus*) predated by a cookiecutter shark (*Isistius brasiliensis*). In Abstracts Proceedings of the Florida Marine Mammal Health Conference, Gainesville, Florida. U.S.A.

⁷ IUCN (2010) IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2010.1. Available online at <www.iucnredlist.org>. Consulted on 1 May 2010.

It is clear that further information is needed on the biology and reproductive parameters of *K. sima* in this region.

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