THE RAFFLES BULLETIN OF ZOOLOGY 1998 **46**(2): 324

SHORT COMMUNICATION

FIRST ACCOUNT OF BRYDE'S WHALES *BALAENOPTERA EDENI* (ANDERSON, 1878), AND OF SPINNER DOLPHINS *STENELLA LONGIROSTRIS* (GRAY, 1828), FROM KOMODO ISLAND, INDONESIA

A group of Bryde's whales *Balaenoptera edeni* was observed on 15 and 16 October 1995 in Loh Liang Bay (Lat 8°37'S, Long 119°30'E), Komodo National Park, Indonesia. Concurrently, groups of spinner dolphins *Stenella longirostris* were encountered. A review of the current status of knowledge of cetaceans in Indonesian waters is given by Rudolph et al. 1997 (Zool. Verh. Leiden 312: 1-42).

Loh Liang Bay forms a south-facing semicircle of two kilometers diameter, which slopes towards a depth of 60m. Whales were observed at a minimum water depth of 20m. On the first day 5-7 whales (1 calf) were observed, and 3 whales on the second day. On a few occasions an animal would approach the drifting boat when the engine was cut. The lateral ridges on the rostrum from the snout to the blowhole on either side of the balaenopterid median ridge were clearly visible. The whales were identified as Bryde's whales *Balaenoptera edeni*. They were between 6-9m long (calf approx 3m) which was judged against the known length of the survey vessel (10m) when the whales swam under the boat, no more than 3m from the observers.

All animals swam around the bay slowly, changing direction unpredictably from time to time. A cow/calf pair surfaced and dived together. One whale rolled onto its side, and one flipper and the top half of the tail fluke were visible. The tail fluke was ventrally lighter, with darker margins. Three breaches were observed in all, two in quick succession. The breaching was almost vertical, with 3/4 of body showing. The blows were low and indistinct, but clearly audible in the calm conditions.

Most whales surfaced for two or three breaths, and then performed a longer dive. Their surfacing spot could not easily be predicted after a longer dive, as it could on the shallow dives. During the surfacing and dive sequence the rostrum and blowhole emerged first at a shallow angle, followed by the back. The dorsal fin emerged as, or just after the blowhole submerged. Prior to diving the tail stock was arched, sometimes pronounced. The tail flukes never showed. The whales' colouration was dark grey-blue dorsally with some light grey marbled bands laterally and in front of the dorsal fin. The ventral surface was white with grey marbling, which showed up clearly through the water, and during the breaches. The demarcation between dorsal and ventral surface colouration was quite distinct in places. No spots or scars on the skin were observed or recorded on the photographs taken.

The Bryde's whales observed here were smaller than the 12 meters length at sexual maturity given by Cummings 1985 (In: Handbook of Marine Mammals Vol 3, Pp 137-154). The presence of a calf indicated that this was possibly a group belonging to the small, inshore form of *Balaenoptera edeni* referred to by Leatherwood and Reeves 1983 (Sierra Club Books, 302 Pp). There is, however, increasing evidence that Bryde's whales in Southeast Asia belong to a possible new species of balaenopterids, the pygmy Bryde's whale. This has been discussed by Wada and Numanchi, 1991 (Reports of the International Whaling Commision (Special Issue 13) Pp 125-154) and Dizon et al. 1995 (Eleventh Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammals, Orlando).

Spinner dolphins *Stenella longirostris* are widespread in Indonesia (Rudolph et al., 1997, *ibid*). Three to four groups of 20-30 animals were observed. A few calves were present. Dolphins were noted performing the characteristic multiple spins around their horizontal axis.

Caroline C. Hoffmann
Napier University, 66 Spylaw Rd, Edinburgh EH10 5BR, Scotland

First account of Bryde's whales Balaenoptera edeni (Anderson, 1878), and of spinner dolphins Stenella longirostris (Gray, 1828), from Komodo Island, Indonesia. Item Preview. remove-circle.Â First account of Bryde's whales Balaenoptera edeni (Anderson, 1878), and of spinner dolphins Stenella longirostris (Gray, 1828), from Komodo Island, Indonesia. by. Hoffmann, C C. Bryde's whale size in comparison to a human Species name: Balaenoptera edeni. Bryde's whales are baleen whales, one of the "great whales" or rorquals. They prefer tropical and temperate waters over the polar seas that other whales in their family frequent. They are largely coastal rather than pelagic. Bryde's whales are very similar in appearance to sei whales and almost as large. They inhabit tropical and subtropical waters worldwide. (Source:Wikipedia). Click here to access the Semantic Properties associated with this species. Please note that the above slideshow is Balaenoptera edeni Anderson, 1879. Bryde's whale range. Bryde's whale (/ËˆbrÊŠdÉ™z/ BRUU-dÉ™z),[2] or the Bryde's whale complex, putatively comprises two species of rorqual and maybe three.Â Prior to 2006, only two confirmed sightings of Bryde's whale had been reported in the eastern North Pacific north of Baja Californiaâ€”one in January 1963, only a kilometer off La Jolla (originally misidentified as a fin whale), and another in October 1991 west of Monterey Bay. Between August 2006 and September 2010, six sightings were made by scientists in the Southern California Bight.Â Bryde's whale surfaces off Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. Balaenoptera edeni is listed as least concern by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. [59]. Brydeâ€™s whales were first described by Anderson (1878) based on examination of a stranded whale in Burma. He gave it the scientific name Balaenoptera edeni. Olsen (1913) found an unrecognized species among â€œsei whalesâ€ caught in Durban, South Africa, and gave it the scientific name B. brydei.Â Contrary to classic accounts of whale migration, the most recent studies show how movements vary across whale populations and species. Mysticetes appear to have periodical migrations with relatively consistent patterns over the years. Seasonal movements in odontocetes are far less consistent over time, including those of the sperm whale, which has been classified as a migratory species with marked seasonal patterns. tropics like Balaenoptera musculus, Balaenoptera physalus, etc. 2 Zoological Survey of India. Detailed accounts of river-dolphins and toothed - and baleen whales have been compiled by Ripgway and Harrison (1985, 1989). The distributional records from Sri Lanka, India and Pakistan have. been given by de Silva (1987), Leatherwood.Â (ii) Spinner dolphin (Stenella longirostris) : Grey stripe present between eyes and flippers. PROTECTION STATUS. Legally protected from killing under Schedule II of Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act and from international trade under Appendix II of CITES.