

ODONTOCETE PARASITES - SOME NEW HOST RECORDS

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Extensive reviews by lists of cetacean parasites and their host distribution are given by DELYAMURE (1968), DAILY and BROWNELL (1972) and MARGOLIS and DAILY (1972). The whale-lice (Amphipoda) have been described in detail by LEUNG (1967).

Recent live capture operations for some of the less commonly handled species of dolphins (e.g. BOSSENECKER 1978), as well as attendance at a number of Japanese dolphin drives, have given us the opportunity to collect parasites apparently unrecorded from these particular hosts. They are reported here, with brief remarks on pathology and distribution, in the interests of a fuller understanding of the inter-specific host ranges of some parasite species.

Endoparasites

Trematoda

Braunina cordiformis (WOLF 1903). A small number of these round trematodes were found attached to the wall of the pyloric stomach of one out of five Commerson's dolphins (*Cephalorhynchus commersoni*) examined post mortem. Pathology, as usual with this species, was minimal and there appeared to be no reaction at the point of attachment. The dolphin had been collected several weeks previously from an inshore habitat off the southeast coast of Argentina, near Comodoro Rivadavia. *Braunina* is known from specimens of *Tursiops truncatus*, *Stenella graffmani* and *Delphinus delphis* (DAILEY and BROWNELL 1972).

Nasitrema attenuata (NEILAND et al. 1970). This parasite was recovered from the nasal air sacs of the Guiana dolphin (*Sotalia guianensis*). Specimens were found in small numbers at autopsy and were expelled from the blowhole of live animals after treatment with praziquantel. Examination of blowhole smears for trematode eggs indicated about a 50% infection rate in these dolphins. There was no evidence of pathology associated with these flukes, although they appeared to produce a brown nasal discharge. The dolphins were collected from the southern Caribbean near Baranquilla, Colombia (BOSSENECKER 1978). *Nasitrema attenuata* is known only from the false killer whale (*Pseudorca crassidens*) (NEILAND et al. 1970).

Nematoda

Halocercus brasiliensis (LINS DE ALMEIDA 1933). This lungworm was recovered in small numbers from the bronchioles of three out of five *Cephalorhynchus commersoni* at autopsy (see above). In two of these dolphins, the worms were associated with focal inflammation and were considered to have predisposed the animals to bacterial pneumonia and septicaemia, which were the cause of death. *Halocercus brasiliensis* is previously only known from *Sotalia guianensis* (LINS DE ALMEIDA 1933) and was recovered by us from a number of animals of this species.

Ectoparasites and epizoites

Thoracica: Balanidae (sessile barnacles)

Xenobalanus globicipitis (STEENSTRUP 1851). Specimens of this epizoite pseudostalked sessile barnacle were found on *Stenella attenuata*, spotted dolphins, killed in a drive fishery at Taiji, Japan in February 1978. One or two specimens were attached to the tail flukes, on either side of the central notch, of eight young animals and two adult females. A cluster of barnacles was attached to the leading edge of a flipper of one young dolphin. A total of 146 dolphins was examined, giving an infestation rate of 7.5%. The pathology caused by these organisms is limited to a small skin ulcer at the point of attachment, surrounded by a narrow zone of pale scar tissue. *Xenobalanus globicipitis* has been recorded from *Tursiops truncatus*, *Globicephala* sp. (LEUNG 1970), *Stenella styx* (*caeruleoalba*) and *Delphinus delphis* (PILLERI 1970).

Amphipoda: Cyamidea (Whale-lice)

Isocyamus delphini (GUERIN MENEVILLE 1836). Numerous specimens of this whale-lice were recovered from Pacific Bottlenosed dolphins (*Tursiops gilli*) captured live in Taiji, Japan. Infection was found only in four of some fifty animals examined. Most specimens were lying free at the edge of the blowhole, in the folds of skin around the eyes and at the angle of the jaw, but frequently filling shallow, circular ulcer craters which occurred on the skin of some animals. No pathology was directly associated with their presence; the skin ulceration was considered merely to have provided a foothold for the lice and to be due to some other cause, as many lesions were not infested. *Isocyamus delphini* is known from the pilot whale (*Globicephala melaena*) and *Syncyamus* (BOWMAN 1955), a closely related genus, from the Pacific Bottlenosed dolphin (*Tursiops nuuanu*) (LEUNG 1970).

We have retained the specific names *Tursiops gilli* and *Sotalia guianensis* because they help to clarify the populations and habitat of these animals in contrast to *Tursiops truncatus* and *Sotalia fluviatilis*, the names under which they tend to be grouped at present (International Whaling Commission 1975), whilst appreciating that the nomenclature of these genera has not been resolved. Future taxonomic work on the dolphins may alter the specific names of the hosts used here.

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