

A guide to the pronunciation and meaning of cetacean taxonomic names

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Abstract

Taxonomic names, frequently made-up of Greek and/or Latin elements, are mysterious and difficult to pronounce for those who never studied ancient languages. This simple guide is designed to help English speakers understand and pronounce the scientific names used to classify cetaceans. Teachers of Latin and Greek recognize certain rules of pronunciation. These rules may not be appropriate in hybrid compounds that have English, as well as Greek and/or Latin elements, but they are acceptable for the pronunciation of taxonomic names that are purely Greek or Latin. There are also traditional rules for anglicizing Latin and latinizing Greek. For English speakers who have no interest in Greek or Latin pronunciations, knowledge of the anglicized pronunciations, and pronunciations found in Webster's Third International Dictionary, as well as knowledge of the meaning of Greek and/or Latin elements, should be helpful. The Appendix shows how orders, suborders, superfamilies, families, and subfamilies may be distinguished by their endings.

Key words: pronunciation, Latin name, scientific name, cetacean, taxonomy.

Introduction

For students and scholars who did not study Latin or Greek in high school or college, taxonomic names often are both mysterious and challenging: mysterious in their etymology and challenging in their pronunciation. Zoologists learn early the use of the Linnaean hierarchy (Linnaeus, 1758), also known as the binomial classification system, to rank and name species of organisms, although they are often left to discover on their own that Latin suffixes and inflected endings of Latin declensions are used to distinguish orders, suborders, families, subfamilies etc. And then, there is the inevitable awkwardness and uncertainty that often accom-

panies attempts to pronounce these Latin names. Even after years as a biologist, one often hesitates before pronouncing taxonomic names in front of colleagues or a class of students.

Today, we rarely hear Latin and ancient Greek spoken. Even scholars may never know exactly how it sounded in ancient times; however, teachers recognize certain rules of pronunciation. These rules may not be appropriate in hybrid compounds that have English, as well as Latin and/or Greek elements, but they are definitely acceptable for the pronunciations of taxonomic names that are purely Latin or Greek. There are also traditional rules for anglicizing Latin and latinizing Greek. Burriss and Casson (1949) set forth the main rules of anglicizing Latin in *Latin and Greek in Current Use*. They maintained that in general, Latin long- and short-vowels are pronounced like the corresponding English long- and short-vowels. Latin consonants generally are pronounced like their English counterparts; however, 'c' and 'g' are soft before 'e', 'i', 'ae', 'oe', and 'y'. The diphthongs 'ae' and 'oe' are pronounced like the 'ee' of beet, 'au' as in caught, and 'eu' as in Teuton.

For English speakers, who have no interest in Latin or Greek pronunciations, knowledge of the pronunciation found in *Webster's Third New International Dictionary* or an anglicized pronunciation derived from traditional rules, as well as knowledge of Latin and Greek elements, should be helpful. Such knowledge gives the conscientious speaker added assurance in public. In cases where the derivations are neither Latin or Greek, and are not found in Webster's Dictionary, the anglicized pronunciation is an educated guess. We offer a simple guide that is "user-friendly". We adopted the pronunciation key to be found in the *NBC Handbook of Pronunciation* and not Webster's key, which is based on a considerably more complex phonetic system and syllabication.

The main purpose of this guide is to help those who did not study Latin and Greek gain a modicum

of self-confidence in the pronunciation of the taxonomic names of whales and dolphins. In preparing this guide, we received a variety of reactions from biologists as to its merits. Some thought it interesting, but of little importance, while others were pleased to know that someone cared about rectifying this common problem. And then there were those who said that there were no accepted rules for pronouncing Latin- and Greek-based taxonomic names, and that everyone was free to pronounce them any way they liked. Of course this statement is not acceptable among certain scholars; still, we suspect few biologists today have the chance to seek guidance on pronunciation. But that is precisely how this guide came into being. Only one of the authors (R. Davis) is a biologist who never studied Latin in school. However, he met his daughter's Latin instructor (D. Ranneft) during a parent-teacher meeting at her high school. This chance meeting led to a conversation about the recognized pronunciation of Latin, and in particular taxonomic names. D. Ranneft, who had taught 'Classical Elements in the English Language' at The University of Richmond, appreciated the difficulties associated with Latin- and Greek-based taxonomic names. Over time, and with the later inclusion of H. Eaker, a former member of the Classics Department at Rice University and specialist in Late Latin, this small guide was born. It was initially designed for students studying marine mammalogy at Texas A&M University. However, we believe that interest in this topic is more widespread because of the current increased interest in marine mammals among students of all ages and the general public. Even more experienced biologists will find this guide useful.

Currently, recognized species of whales and dolphins along with other taxonomic classifications (e.g., superfamily, family, subfamily) came from *Marine Mammals of the World* by Jefferson, Leatherwood and Webster (Rome: F.A.O. of the U.N. 1993), *Marine Mammals and Noise* by Richardson, Greene, Malme, and Thomson (San Diego: Academic Pr. 1992), and *Marine Mammals of the World* by Rice (Lawrence: Allen Pr. 1998). The Pronunciation Key used in this guide was adapted from the *NBC Handbook of Pronunciation* by Ehrlich and Hand (N.Y. Harper Row Publishers, 1984). We omitted the unhelpful, indeterminate schwa and added for Greek and Latin pronunciation the ü. The anglicized pronunciation is based, where possible, on what is found in *Webster's Third New International Dictionary* (Springfield: Merriam Webster Inc., 1986). Other dictionaries consulted included: *A Latin Dictionary* compiled by Lewis and Short (Oxford University Press, 1955); *A Greek-English Lexicon* compiled by Liddell and Scott (Oxford University Press, 1978); *Dictionary of*

Medieval Latin compiled by R. Latham (London: Oxford University Press, 1975).

Pronunciation Key

a as in apt, sap
 ah as in calm, father
 ahr as in ark, dark, harm
 air as in care, pair
 aw as in all, saw
 ay as in ail, say, tame
 b as in bob, box, nab
 ch as in chest, church, preach
 d as in dud, dug, sad
 e as in bet, egg
 ee as in easy, me
 eer as in beer, ear, tier
 f as in far, fluff, thief
 g as in gave, grog, hag
 h as in half, he
 i as in is, quick
 ī as in my, tie
 j as in jump, judge, magic
 k as in cuff, kluck
 l as in left, lull
 m as in come, merry, mom
 n as in now, nun, span
 French final n as in garçon, vin
 ng as in hang, sing, singer
 o as in hot, on, sock
 oh as in clone, coat, oat
 oi as in boy, toil
 oo as in soon, too
 oor as in cure, poor, tour
 or as in for, tore, warn
 ow as in cow, ouch
 p as in put, pop, wrap
 r as in hear, rap, rare
 s as in sap, spice, twice
 sh as in hush, sheep, shush
 t as in pat, tip, toot
 th as in bath, fourth, thin
 th as in bathe, father, this
 u as in supper, up
 ur as in first, her, spur
 uu as in book, foot, full
 ü as in grün (German)
 v as in live, valve, very
 w as in quiet, west
 y as in yard, you
 z as in hazy, please, zip
 zh as in leisure, pleasure

Abbreviations used in the Guide:

Gr=Greek L=Latin
 L.p.=Latin pronunciation
 Gr.p.=Greek pronunciation

A.p. = Anglicized pronunciation

^w = Pronunciation based on Webster's Third International Dictionary

In cases where cetacean names are unaltered Latin words, the latinized pronunciation can be used, rather than the anglicized pronunciation. All syllabication follows Classical rules. A capitalized syllable indicates an accent on the vowel or stress. An asterisk * invites the reader to go to the Appendix for an explanation of the Latin suffix and/or inflected ending of a Latin declension used for a particular level of taxonomic classification.

Order: Cetacea (Whales, Dolphins and Porpoises)

Cetacea (A.p.) **see/TAY/shee/a** ^w cētus or cētos (L) whale (L.p.) **KAY/tuus** or **KAY/tos** from kētos (Gr) huge fish (Gr.p.) **KAY/tos***.

Suborder: Mysticeti or Mysticete (Baleen whales)

Mysticeti (A.p.) **mis/ti/SEE/ti** ^w or Mysticete (A.p.) **mis/ti/SEE/tee** ^w Plural of mysticetus (L) or mysticetos (L) from Greek. According to Gotch (1979), the derivation is possibly from mystax, mystakos (Gr) moustache, (Gr.p.) **MÜS/taks** and cētus (L) whale (L.p.) **KAY/tuus** from kētos (Gr) huge fish (Gr.p.) **KAY/tos**. In the Oxford English Dictionary, we find that mysticetus goes back to Aristotle of the 4th Century BC in Historia Animalium III xii, where modern editions read 'ho mys to ketos' 'the mouse the whale'. However, at least one scholar (A. Peck, 1965) restored 'mystakoketos', 'moustache-whale' for the manuscripts 'the mouse the whale' which according to Aristotle, does not have teeth in its mouth but hairs or bristles like pigs.

Families of the Suborder Mysticeti

Balaenidae (Right and bowhead whales)

Balaenidae (A.p.) **ba/LEE/ni/dee** ^w bālaena (L) whale (L.p.) **bah/LĪ/na**+id (Gr) related to+ae (L)*.

Neobalaenidae (Pygmy right whale)

Neobalaenidae (A.p.) **nee/oh/ba/LEE/ni/dee** neos (Gr.) new (Gr.p.) **NE/os**+bālaena (L) whale (L.p.) **bah/LĪ/na**+id (Gr) related to+ae (L)*.

Balaenopteridae (Rorquals)

Balaenopteridae (A.p.) **ba/lee/nop/TE/ri/dee** ^w bālaena (L) whale (L.p.) **bah/LĪ/na**+ptera (Gr) wings (Gr.p.) **pte/RAH** +id (Gr) related to+ae (L)*.

Eschrichtiidae (Gray whale)

Eschrichtiidae (A.p.) **esh/rik/TI/ri/dee** Eschricht+i(us) common Latin/Roman name ending (e.g. Julius)+id (Gr) related to+ae (L)*.

Eschricht was a Danish zoologist according to Leatherwood and Reeves (1983).

Species

Right whale *Balaena glacialis* (Müller, 1776)

Balaena (A.p.) **ba/LEE/na** bālaena (L) whale (L.p.) **bah/LĪ/na**
glacialis (A.p.) **gla/si/AY/lis** glaciālis (L) icy (L.p.) **gla/ki/AH/lis**

Bowhead whale *Balaena mysticetus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Balaena (A.p.) **ba/LEE/na** ^w bālaena (L) whale (L.p.) **bah/LĪ/na**
mysticetus (A.p.) **mis/ti/SEE/tus** mysticetus (L) from (Gr.) singular of mysticeti (See Suborder: Mysticeti or Mysticete above)

Pygmy right whale *Caperea marginata* (Gray, 1846)

Caperea (A.p.) **ka/PE/reefa** Gotch (1979) explains a possible derivation from caperō (L) I am wrinkled (L.p.) **KA/pe/roh**
marginata (A.p.) **mar/ji/NAY/ta** (marginātus)/margināta (L) bordered (L.p.) **mar/gi/NAH/ta**

Blue whale *Balaenoptera musculus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Balaenoptera (A.p.) **ba/lee/NOP/te/ra** ^w bālaena (L) whale (L.p.) **bah/LĪ/na**+ptera (Gr) wings (Gr.p.) **pte/RAH**
musculus (A.p.) **MOOS/ku/lus** musculus (L) muscle, mouse (L.p.) **MOOS/kuu/luus** The Latin word 'musculus' is formed from 'mūs' (L) meaning mouse (L.p.) **MOOS** and the Latin diminutive suffix '-culus'. The word 'musculus' may refer to: (1) mouse or little mouse, (2) sea animal (e.g., mussel in Plautus Rudens 298 or pilot fish for whales in Pliny's Natural History IX,186, (3) muscle, (4) mantelet, or (5) small boat (Latin Dictionary by Lewis and Short, 1955). Similarly, the Greek word 'mys' (Gr.p.) **MÜS** may refer to a mouse, mussel or muscle. Early students of anatomy studying the muscle may have been reminded of a mouse. (Thesaurus Linguae Latinae, 1966; Thesaurus Graecae Linguae 1954.)

Fin whale *Balaenoptera physalus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Balaenoptera (A.p.) **ba/lee/NOP/te/ra** ^w bālaena (L) whale (L.p.) **bah/LĪ/na**+ptera (Gr) wings (Gr.p.) **pte/RAH**
physalus (A.p.) **FĪ/sa/lus** physalus (L) from physalos (Gr) puffed up toad (Leatherwood & Reeves, 1983) (Gr.p.) **FŪ/sah/los**

Sei whale *Balaenoptera borealis* (Lesson, 1828)

Balaenoptera (A.p.) **ba/lee/NOP/te/ra** ^w bālaena (L) whale (L.p.) **bah/LĪ/na**+ptera (Gr) wings (Gr.p.) **pte/RAH**
borealis (A.p.) **boh/ree/A/lis** ^w or **bo/re/AY/lis** Boreās (L) North Wind+ -ālis (L) pertaining to (Burriss & Casson, 1949) (L.p.) **bo/re/AH/lis**

Eden's whale *Balaenoptera edeni* (Anderson, 1879)
Balaenoptera (A.p.) **ba/lee/NOP/te/ra** ^w bālaena (L) whale (L.p.) **bah/LI/na**+ptera (Gr) wings (Gr.p.) **pte/RAH**

edeni (A.p.) **EE/de/nec** or **EE/de/mi** Edeni (of Edenus) of Eden. The final 'i' is the Latin possessive case ending for a second declension noun, pronounced 'ee' in Latin. According to Leatherwood and Reeves (1983), this species was named after Ashley Eden, Chief Commissioner of British Burma.

Bryde's whale *Balaenoptera brydei* (Olsen, 1913)
Balaenoptera (A.p.) **ba/lee/NOP/te/ra** ^w bālaena (L) whale (L.p.) **bah/LI/na**+ptera (Gr) wings (Gr.p.) **pte/RAH**

brydei (A.p.) **BRĪ/de/ee** or **BRĪ/defī** Brydei (of Brydeus) of Bryde The final 'ī' is the Latin possessive case ending for a second declension noun, pronounced 'ee' in Latin.

Minke whale *Balaenoptera acutorostrata* (Lacépède, 1804)

Balaenoptera (A.p.) **ba/lee/NOP/te/ra** ^w bālaena (L) whale (L.p.) **bah/LI/na**+ptera (Gr) wings (Gr.p.) **pte/RAH**
acutorostrata (A.p.) **a/koo/to/rohs/TRAY/ta** (acūtus)/acūta (L) sharp (L.p.) **a/KOOI/ta**+(rōstrātus)/rōstrāta (L) beaked (L.p.) **rohs/TRAH/ta**

Antarctic minke whale *Balaenoptera bonaerensis* (Burmeister, 1867)

Balaenoptera (A.p.) **ba/lee/NOP/te/ra** ^w bālaena (L) whale (L.p.) **bah/LI/na**+ptera (Gr) wings (Gr.p.) **pte/RAH**
bonaerensis (A.p.) **bo/naer/EN/sis** bonus aēr (L) good air (L.p.) **BO/nuus AH/ayr**+ensis (L) belonging to aēr (L) from aēr (Gr) air (Gr.p.) **ah/AYR**

Humpback whale *Megaptera novaeangliae* (Borowski, 1781)

Megaptera (A.p.) **me/GAP/te/ra** ^w (megas)/mega (Gr) great (Gr.p.) **ME/gah**+ ptera (Gr) wings (Gr.p.) **pte/RAH**
novaeangliae (A.p.) **noh/vee/ANG/li/ee** novae angliae (L) of New England (L.p.) **NO/wī ANG/li/ī** ultimately from (novus)/nova (L) new+anglia (L) a region in south eastern medieval England

Gray whale *Eschrichtius robustus* (Lilljeborg, 1861)

Eschrichtius (A.p.) **esh/RIK/ti/us** Eschricht+ius common Latin/Roman name ending (e.g. Julius). Eschricht was a Danish zoologist according to Leatherwood & Reeves (1983).
robustus (A.p.) **roh/BUS/tus** rōbustus (L) strong (L.p.) **roh/BUUS/tuus**

Suborder: Odontoceti (Toothed whales)

Odontoceti (A.p.) **oh/don/to/SEE/tī** ^w Plural of odontocetus* odous (Stem: odont-) (Gr) tooth

(Gr.p.) **o/DOOS**+cētī (L) whales (L.p.) **KAY/tee** plural of cētus (L) whale (L.p.) **KAY/tuus** from kētōs (Gr) whale. Odontocete (A.p.) **oh/don/to/SEE/tee** ^w cete (L.p.) **KAY/tay** plural of cētōs (L) whale from kētōs (Gr.) huge fish, whale.

Superfamilies of the Suborder Odontoceti

Delphinoidea (Dolphins)

Delphinoidea (A.p.) **del/fi/NOI/dee/a** delphīnus or delphīn (L) dolphin (L.p.) **del/FEE/nuus** from delphis (Gr) dolphin (Gr.p.) **del/FIS** +oide (Gr.) like+a (L)*

Platanistoidea (Indian river-dolphins)

Platanistoidea (A.p.) **pla/ta/nis/TOI/dee/a** platanista (L) Ganges fish or dolphin (L.p.) **pla/ta/NIS/ta** from platanistēs (Gr) fish of the Ganges (Gr.p.) **plah/tah/nis/TAYS**+oide (Gr.) like+a (L)*

Physeteroidea (Sperm whales)

Physeteroidea (A.p.) **fi/se/de/ROI/dee/a** ^w or **fi/se/te/ROI/dee/a** physētēr (L) whale (L.p.) **fū/SAY/tayr** from physētēr (Gr) blowpipe or whale (G.p.) **fū/say/TAYR** +oide (Gr.) like+a (L)*

Ziphioida (Beaked whales)

Ziphioida (A.p.) **zi/fi/OI/dee/a** ziphius seems to be an erroneous form of xiphiās (L) swordfish (Oxford English Dictionary) (L.p.) **KSI/fi/ahs** from xiphias (Gr) swordfish (Gr.p.) **KSI/fi/ahs** from xiphos (Gr) sword (Gr.p.) **KSI/fos** +oide (Gr.) like+a (L)*

Families of the Suborder Odontoceti

Physeteridae (Sperm whale)

Physeteridae (A.p.) **fi/se/TER/i/dee** ^w physētēr (L) whale (L.p.) **fū/SAY/tayr** from physētēr (Gr) blowpipe or whale (G.p.) **fū/say/TAYR** +id (Gr) related to+ae (L)*

Kogiidae (Pygmy and Dwarf sperm whales)

Kogiidae (A.p.) **koh/JI/i/dee** kogia+id (Gr) related to+ae (L)*. Kogia was possibly named after Cogia Effendi, a Turkish naturalist who observed whales in the Mediterranean Sea in the early nineteenth century (Gotch, 1979).

Monodontidae (Narwhal and White Whale or Beluga)

Monodontidae (A.p.) **mo/no/DON/ti/dee** monos (Gr) single (Gr.p.) **MO/nos**+odous (Gr) tooth (Gr.p.) **o/DOOS** +id (Gr) related to+ae (L)*

Ziphiidae (Beaked whales)

Ziphiidae (A.p.) **zi/FI/i/dee** ^w or **zi/FI/i/dee** Ziphius seems to be an erroneous form of xiphiās (L) swordfish (Oxford English Dictionary) (L.p.) **KSI/fi/ahs** from xiphias (Gr) swordfish (Gr.p.)

- KSI/fi/ahs** from xiphos (Gr) sword (Gr.p.) **KSI/fos** +id (Gr) related to+ae (L)*
- Delphinidae (Dolphins)**
Delphinidae (A.p.) **del/FIN/i/dee** ^w or **del/FĪN/i/dee** delphīnus (L) dolphin (L.p.) **del/FEE/nuus** from delphis (Gr) dolphin (Gr.p.) **del/FIS** +id (Gr) related to+ae (L)*
- Phocoenidae (Porpoises)**
Phocoenidae (A.p.) **foh/SEE/mi/dee** phocoena variant form of phocaena Latinized form of phōkaina (Gr) porpoise (Gr.p.) **FOH/kī/nah** +id (Gr) related to+ae (L)*. Aristotle noted that the phōkaina is like a small delphis and exists in the Black Sea. 'The porpoise differs from the dolphin for its size is less and it is broader from the back. It has a dark blue steel color. Many say the porpoise is a kind of dolphin.' Historia Animalium 566 b.
- Platanistidae (Indian river-dolphin)**
Platanistidae (A.p.) **pla/ta/NIS/ti/dee** ^w platanista (L) Ganges fish or dolphin (L.p.) **pla/ta/NIS/ta** from platanistēs (Gr) fish of the Ganges (Gr.p.) **plah/tah/nis/TAYS** +id (Gr) related to+ae (L)*. Pliny, the Roman naturalist of the 1st Century A.D., says that in the Ganges of India, platanistae have the beak and tail of the dolphin. Natural History IX 46.
- Iniidae (Amazon river-dolphin or Boto)**
Iniidae (A.p.) **i/NI/i/dee** inia+id (Gr) related to+ae (L)*. Inia is the native name used for the dolphin by Guarayo Indians of the San Miguel River in Bolivia (Leatherwood & Reeves, 1983).
- Pontoporiidae (La Plata dolphin or Franciscana)**
Pontoporiidae (A.p.) **pon/to/po/RI/i/dee** pontos (Gr) sea (Gr.p.) **PON/tos** +poros (Gr) passage (Gr.p.) **PO/ros** +id (Gr) related to+ae (L)*. The dolphin was named from the belief that it inhabits fresh and marine waters according to Leatherwood & Reeves (1983).
- Lipotidae (Chinese river-dolphin or Baiji)**
Lipotidae (A.p.) **li/PO/ti/dee** or **li/POH/ti/dee** lipos (Gr.) fat (Gr.p.) **LI/pos** or less likely, but according to Leatherwood & Reeves (1983) and Gotch (1979), leipō (Gr.) I leave
- Species**
- Sperm whale *Physeter macrocephalus* (formerly *catodon*) (Linnaeus, 1758)**
Physeter (A.p.) **fi/SEE/der** ^w or **fi/SEE/ter** physētēr (L) whale (L.p.) **fū/SAY/tayr** from physētēr (Gr) blow-pipe, or whale (G.p.) **fū/say/TAYR** *macrocephalus* (A.p.) **mak/ro/SE/fa/lus** or **mak/roh/SE/fa/lus** makros (Gr) long (Gr.p.) **mahk/**
- ROS**+cephalus Latinized form from kephalē (Gr) head (Gr.p.) **ke/fah/LAY** *catodon* (A.p.) **KA/to/don** Latinized form from kata (Gr) down (Gr.p.) **kah/TAH** +odous (odont-word stem) (Gr) tooth (Gr.p.) **o/DOOS**
- Pygmy sperm whale *Kogia breviceps* (de Blainville, 1838)**
Kogia (A.p.) **KOH/jee/a** ^w *Kogia* was possibly named after Cogia Effendi, a Turkish naturalist who observed whales in the Mediterranean Sea in the early nineteenth century (Gotch, 1979). *breviceps* (A.p.) **BRE/vi/seps** brevis/breve (L) short (L.p.) **BRE/wis**+ -ceps (L) from caput (L) head (L.p.) **KA/puut**
- Dwarf sperm whale *Kogia simus* or *Kogia sima* (Owen, 1866)**
Kogia (A.p.) **KOH/jee/a** ^w *Kogia* was possibly named after Cogia Effendi, a Turkish naturalist who observed whales in the Mediterranean Sea in the early nineteenth century (Gotch, 1979). *simus* or *sima* (A.p.) **SĪ/mus** or **SĪ/ma** sīmus or sīma (L) snub-nosed (L.p.) **SEE/muus** from sīmos (Gr) snub-nosed (Gr.p.) **si/MOS**
- Narwhal *Monodon monoceros* (Linnaeus, 1758)**
Monodon (A.p.) **MO/no/don** monos (Gr) single (Gr.p.) **MO/nos** +odous (Gr) tooth (Gr.p.) **o/DOOS** *monoceros* (A.p.) **mo/NO/se/ros** monos (Gr) single (Gr.p.) **MO/nos** +partially Latinized form from keras (Gr) horn (Gr.p.) **KE/rahs**
- White whale or Beluga *Delphinapterus leucas* (Pallas, 1776)**
Delphinapterus (A.p.) **del/fi/NAP/ter/us** ^w delphīnus (L) dolphin (L.p.) **del/FEE/nuus** or delphīn (L) from delphis (Gr) dolphin+apterus Latinized form of apteros (Gr.) without wings (Gr.p.) **AHP/te/ros** *leucas* (A.p.) **LOO/kas** Latinized form from leukos (Gr) white (Gr.p.) **leh-oo/KOS**
- Baird's beaked whale *Berardius bairdii* (Stejneger, 1883)**
Berardius (A.p.) **bay/RAR/di/us** Bérard+-ius common Latin name ending. Bérard was the French captain of a ship carrying a whale named after him from New Zealand to France in 1846 (Leatherwood and Reeves, 1983). *bairdii* (A.p.) **BAIR/di/ee** or **BAIR/di/i** Bairdii (of Bairdus), of Baird +-ius common Latin name ending. The final 'i' is the possessive case ending for a second declension noun, pronounced 'ee' in Latin. Spencer Baird was an American zoologist who did a survey of the Pacific Ocean from 1857 to 1859 (Gotch, 1979).

Arnoux's beaked whale *Berardius arnuxii* (Duvernoy, 1851)

Berardius (A.p.) **bay/RAR/di/us** Bérard+ -ius common Latin name ending. Bérard was the French captain of a ship carrying a whale named after him from New Zealand to France in 1846 (Leatherwood & Reeves, 1983). *arnuxii* (A.p.) **ar/NOOK/si/ee** or **ar/NOOK/si/fi** Arnuxii (of Arnouxius), of Arnoux+ -ius common Latin name ending. The final 'i' is the possessive case ending for a second declension noun, pronounced 'ee' in Latin. Arnoux was a French surgeon on Bérard's ship travelling from New Zealand to France according to Leatherwood & Reeves, 1983.

Cuvier's beaked whale *Ziphius cavirostris* (Cuvier, 1823)

Ziphius (A.p.) **ZI/fee/us** ^w ziphius seems to be an erroneous form of xiphiās (L) swordfish (Oxford English Dictionary) (L.p.) **KSI/fi/ahs** from xiphiās (Gr) swordfish and ultimately from xiphos (Gr) sword (Gr.p.) **KSI/fos** *cavirostris* (A.p.) **ka/vi/ROHS/tris** from (cavus)/cavum (L) hollow (L.p.) **KA/wuum+** rōstrum (L) beak (L.p.) **ROHS/truum**

Nothorn bottlenose whale *Hyperoodon ampullatus* (Forster, 1770)

Hyperoodon (A.p.) **hi/pe/ROH/o/don** ^w hyperōios (Gr) upper (Gr.p.) **hū/pe/ROH/i/os**+odous (Gr) tooth (Gr.p.) **o/DOOS** *ampullatus* (A.p.) **am/pu/LAY/tus** ampulla (L) flask or bottle (L.p.) **AM/puu/la+** -ātus (L) having the shape of (Ayers, 1972)

Southern bottlenose whale *Hyperoodon planifrons* (Flower, 1882)

Hyperoodon (A.p.) **hi/pe/ROH/o/don** ^w hyperōios (Gr) upper (Gr.p.) **hū/pe/ROH/i/os**+odous (Gr) tooth (Gr.p.) **o/DOOS** *planifrons* (A.p.) **PLAY/ni/fronz** (plānus)/plāna (L) flat (L.p.) **PLAH/na+** frōns (L) forehead (L.p.) **FROHNS**

Shepherd's beaked whale *Tasmacetus sheperdi* (Oliver, 1937)

Tasmacetus (A.p.) **taz/ma/SEE/tus** Tasma refers to the Tasman Sea (Leatherwood & Reeves, 1983)+cētus/cētos (L) whale (L.p.) **KAY/tuus** from kētos (Gr) whale (Gr.p.) **KAY/tos** *sheperdi* (A.p.) **SHE/per/dee** or **SHE/per/di** sheperdi (of Sheperdus) of Sheperd. The final 'i' is a Latin word ending indicating the possessive case, pronounced 'ee'. G. Shepherd, a curator of the Wanganui Museum in New Zealand, obtained the whale specimen that was named after him (Leatherwood & Reeves, 1983).

Blainville's beaked whale *Mesoplodon densirostris* (de Blainville, 1817)

Mesoplodon (A.p.) **me/ZOP/lo/don** ^w (mesos)/meson (Gr) middle (Gr.p.) **ME/son**+hoplon (Gr) weapon (Gr.p.) **HOP/lon** +odous (Gr) tooth (Gr.p.) **o/DOOS**. This derivation denoted that the whale was armed with a tooth in the middle of its lower jaw according to Mead (1989). *densirostris* (A.p.) **den/si/ROHS/tris** from (dēnsus) /densum (L) thick (L.p.) **DAYN/suum+** rōstrum (L) beak (L.p.) **ROHS/truum**

Gray's beaked whale *Mesoplodon grayi* (von Haast, 1876)

Mesoplodon (A.p.) **me/ZOP/lo/don** ^w (mesos)/meson (Gr) middle (Gr.p.) **ME/son**+hoplon (Gr) weapon (Gr.p.) **HOP/lon** +odous (Gr) tooth (Gr.p.) **o/DOOS**. This derivation denoted that the whale was armed with a tooth in the middle of its lower jaw according to Mead (1989). *grayi* (A.p.) **GRAY/ee** or **GRAY/i** grayi (of Grayus) of Gray. The final 'i' is a Latin word ending indicating possessive case, pronounced 'ee'. J. Gray was a director of the British Museum according to Leatherwood & Reeves (1983)

Ginkgo-toothed beaked whale *Mesoplodon ginkgodens* (Nishiwaki and Kamiya, 1958)

Mesoplodon (A.p.) **me/ZOP/lo/don** ^w (mesos)/meson (Gr) middle (Gr.p.) **ME/son**+hoplon (Gr) weapon (Gr.p.) **HOP/lon** +odous (Gr) tooth (Gr.p.) **o/DOOS**. This derivation denoted that the whale was armed with a tooth in the middle of its lower jaw according to Mead (1989). *ginkgodens* (A.p.) **GING/koh/denz** (or **JING/koh/denz**) ginkgo from ginkyo (Japanese), a tree with fan shaped leaves. The mandibular teeth of this whale are apparently shaped like the leaves of the ginkgo tree according to Leatherwood & Reeves (1983)+dēns (L) tooth (L.p.) **DAYNS**.

Hector's beaked whale *Mesoplodon hectori* (Gray, 1871)

Mesoplodon (A.p.) **me/ZOP/lo/don** ^w (mesos)/meson (Gr) middle (Gr.p.) **ME/son**+hoplon (Gr) weapon (Gr.p.) **HOP/lon**+odous (Gr) tooth. (Gr.p.) **o/DOOS**. This derivation denoted that the whale was armed with a tooth in the middle of its lower jaw according to Mead (1989). *hectori* (A.p.) **HEK/to/ree** or **HEK/to/rī** Hectors (of Hectorus) of Hector The final 'i' is a Latin word ending indicating possessive case, pronounced 'ee'. However, note that the Romans would not have used a second declension word ending 'i' on a third declension proper noun, Hector, borrowed from Greek. For the Romans, 'of Hector' would be Hectoris. J. Hector was curator of the Colonial Museum in Wellington, New Zealand where the whale was named according to Leatherwood & Reeves (1983)

Hubb's beaked whale *Mesoplodon carlhubbsi* (Moore, 1963)

Mesoplodon (A.p.) **me/ZOP/lo/don**^w (mesos)/meson (Gr) middle (Gr.p.) **ME/son**+hoplon (Gr) weapon (Gr.p) **HOP/lon**+odous (Gr) tooth (Gr.p.) **o/DOOS**. This derivation denoted that the whale was armed with a tooth in the middle of its lower jaw according to Mead (1989).

carlhubbsi (A.p.) **KAHRL/hub/see** or **KAHRL/hub/sī** carlhubbsi (of Carl Hubbsus) of Carl Hubbs. The final 'i' is a Latin word ending indicating possessive case, pronounced 'ee'. Carl Hubbs was an American marine zoologist according to Leatherwood & Reeves (1983).

Pygmy beaked whale *Mesoplodon peruvianus* (Reyes, et al., 1991)

Mesoplodon (A.p.) **me/ZOP/lo/don**^w (mesos)/meson (Gr) middle (Gr.p.) **ME/son**+hoplon (Gr) weapon (Gr.p) **HOP/lon**+odous (Gr) tooth (Gr.p.) **o/DOOS**. This derivation denoted that the whale was armed with a tooth in the middle of its lower jaw according to Mead (1989).

peruvianus (A.p.) **pe/roo/vee/AY/nus** Peru a country in South America+(i)ānus (L) belonging to (Burriss & Casson, 1949).

Sowerby's beaked whale *Mesoplodon bidens* (Sowerby, 1804)

Mesoplodon (A.p.) **me/ZOP/lo/don**^w (mesos)/meson (Gr) middle (Gr.p.) **ME/son**+hoplon (Gr) weapon (Gr.p) **HOP/lon**+odous (Gr) tooth (Gr.p.) **o/DOOS**. This derivation denoted that the whale was armed with a tooth in the middle of its lower jaw according to Mead (1989).

bidens (A.p.) **BI/denz**^w or **BI/denz** bidēns (L) with two teeth (L.p.) **BI/dayns** from bis (L) twice and dēns (L) tooth.

Gervais' beaked whale *Mesoplodon europaeus* (Gervais, 1855)

Mesoplodon (A.p.) **me/ZOP/lo/don**^w (mesos)/meson (Gr) middle (Gr.p.) **ME/son**+hoplon (Gr) weapon (Gr.p) **HOP/lon**+odous (Gr) tooth (Gr.p.) **o/DOOS**. This derivation denoted that the whale was armed with a tooth in the middle of its lower jaw according to Mead (1989).

europaeus (A.p.) **yoo/roh/PEE/us** Eurōpaeus (L) of Europe (L.p.) **eo/roh/PI/us** from Eurōpa (L) Europe (L.p.) **eo/ROH/pa** from Eurōpē (Gr) Europe (Gr.p.) **eh-oo/ROH/pay**

True's beaked whale *Mesoplodon mirus* (True, 1913)

Mesoplodon (A.p.) **me/ZOP/lo/don**^w (mesos)/meson (Gr) middle (Gr.p.) **ME/son**+hoplon (Gr) weapon (Gr.p) **HOP/lon**+odous (Gr) tooth (Gr.p.) **o/DOOS**. This derivation denoted that the whale was armed with a tooth in the middle of its lower jaw according to Mead (1989).

mirus (A.p.) **MĪ/rus** mīrus (L) wonderful (L.p.) **MEE/ruus**

Strap-toothed whale *Mesoplodon layardii* (Gray, 1865)

Mesoplodon (A.p.) **me/ZOP/lo/don**^w (mesos)/meson (Gr) middle (Gr.p.) **ME/son**+hoplon (Gr) weapon (Gr.p) **HOP/lon**+odous (Gr) tooth (Gr.p.) **o/DOOS**. This derivation denoted that the whale was armed with a tooth in the middle of its lower jaw according to Mead (1989).

layardii (A.p.) **lay/AR/di/ee** or **lay/AR/di/i** layardii (of Layardius) of Layard+ius common Latin name ending. The final 'i' is the Latin possessive case ending pronounced 'ee' in Latin. Layard E. Layard, curator of the South African Museum, provided drawings of the whale named after him according to Leatherwood & Reeves (1983)

Andrew's beaked whale *Mesoplodon bowdoini* (Andrews, 1908)

Mesoplodon (A.p.) **me/ZOP/lo/don**^w (mesos)/meson (Gr) middle (Gr.p.) **ME/son**+hoplon (Gr) weapon (Gr.p) **HOP/lon**+odous (Gr) tooth (Gr.p.) **o/DOOS**. This derivation denoted that the whale was armed with a tooth in the middle of its lower jaw according to Mead (1989).

bowdoini (A.p.) **BOH/do/nee** or **BOH/do/nī** bowdoini (of Bowdoinus) of Bowdoin. The final 'i' is the Latin possessive case ending pronounced 'ee' in Latin. George Bowdoin was a trustee of the American Museum of Natural History and expanded the museum's cetacean collection according to Leatherwood & Reeves (1983)

Bahamonde's beaked whale *Mesoplodon bahamondi* (Reyes, et al., 1996)

Mesoplodon (A.p.) **me/ZOP/lo/don**^w (mesos)/meson (Gr) middle (Gr.p.) **ME/son**+hoplon (Gr) weapon (Gr.p) **HOP/lon**+odous (Gr) tooth (Gr.p.) **o/DOOS**. This derivation denoted that the whale was armed with a tooth in the middle of its lower jaw according to Mead (1989).

bahamondi (A.p.) **ba/ha/MON/dee** or **ba/ha/MON/dī** bahamondi (of Bahamondus) of Bahamonde according to Rice (1998) The final 'i' is the Latin possessive case ending pronounced 'ee' in Latin

Longman's beaked whale *Indopacetus pacificus* (Longman, 1926)

Indopacetus (A.p) **in/do/pa/SEE/tus** indicus (L) Indian (L.p.) **IN/di/kuus** pācificus (L) Pacific (L.p.) **pah/KI/fi/kuus** cētus (L) whale (L.p.) **KAY/tuus** from kētos (Gr) huge fish *pacificus* (A.p.) **pah/SI/fi/kuus** pācificus (L) Pacific (L.p.) **pah/KI/fi/kuus** from pāx (L) peace and faciō (L) I make.

Stejneger's beaked whale *Mesoplodon stejnegeri* (True 1885)

Mesoplodon (A.p.) **me/ZOP/lo/don**^w (mesos)/meson (Gr) middle (Gr.p.) **ME/son**+hoplon (Gr) weapon (Gr.p.) **HOP/lon**+odous (Gr) tooth (Gr.p.) **o/DOOS**. This derivation denoted that the whale was armed with a tooth in the middle of its lower jaw according to Mead (1989). *stejnegeri* (A.p.) **STĪ/ne/je/ree** or **STĪ/ne/je/rī** stejnegeri (of Stejnegerus) of Stejneger. The final 'i' is a Latin word ending indicating possessive case, pronounced 'ee'. Leonhard Stejneger, former curator of the U.S. National Museum, obtained the whale named after him in 1883 according to Leatherwood & Reeves (1983)

Irrawaddy dolphin *Orcaella brevirostris* (Gray, 1866)

Orcaella (A.p.) **AWR/kee/la** or **AWR/ka/e/la** orca (L) whale (L.p.) **OR/ka**+ella (L) little (Burriss & Casson, 1949)

brevirostris (A.p.) **bre/vi/ROHS/tris** from (brevis)/breve (L) short (L.p.) **BRE/we+** rōstrum (L) beak (L.p.) **ROHS/truum**

Killer whale *Orcinus orca* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Orcinus (A.p.) **awr/SĪ/nus** w orca (L) whale (L.p.) **OR/ka**+īnus (L) like/belonging to (Burriss & Casson, 1949)

orca (A.p.) **AWR/ka**^w orca (L) whale, killer whale (L.p.) **OR/ka**. The orca is described as particularly formidable and aggressive in Pliny's Natural History IX, 12-13. He stated that 'Orcae attack the young of other whales or even females newly delivered or pregnant.'

Long-finned pilot whale *Globicephala melas* (Traill, 1809)

Globicephala (A.p.) **gloh/bi/SE/fa/la**^w globus (L) sphere (L.p.) **GLO/buus**+cephala Latinized form of kephalē (Gr.) head (Gr.p.) **ke/fah/LAY**

melas (A.p.) **ME/las** melas (Gr.) black (Gr.p.) **ME/lahs**. This whale has a bulbous head and is slate gray to black in color according to Leatherwood & Reeves (1983).

Short-finned pilot whale *Globicephala macrorhynchus* (Gray, 1846)

Globicephala (A.p.) **gloh/bi/SE/fa/la**^w globus (L) sphere (L.p.) **GLO/buus**+cephala Latinized form of kephalē (Gr.) head (Gr.p.) **ke/fah/LAY**

macrorhynchus (A.p.) **mak/roh/RING/kus** makros (Gr.) long (Gr.p.) **mahk/ROS** +rhynchus Latinized form of rhynchos (Gr.) snout (Gr.p.) **RHŪN/kos**

False killer whale *Pseudorca crassidens* (Owen, 1846)

Pseudorca (A.p.) **SOO/dawr/ka** or **SYOO/dawr/ka** pseudēs (Gr.) false (Gr.p.) **pseh-oo/DAYS** +orca (L) whale (L.p.) **OR/ka**

crassidens (A.p.) **KRA/si/denz** crassus (L) thick+dēns (L) tooth (L.p.) **KRA/suus DAYNS**. This whale has conspicuous teeth according to Leatherwood & Reeves (1983).

Pygmy killer whale *Feresa attenuata* (Gray, 1874)

Feresa (A.p.) **fe/REE/sa** or **fe/RAY/za** Feresa is a vernacular French name for dolphin according to Leatherwood & Reeves (1983).

attenuata (A.p.) **alte/nu/AY/ta** (attenuātus)/attenuāta (L) weak, reduced (L.p.) **alte/nuul AH/ta**

Melon-headed whale *Peponocephala electra* (Gray, 1846)

Peponocephala (A.p.) **pe/poh/no/SE/fa/la** or **pee/poh/no/SE/fa/la** pepōn (L) melon (L.p.) **PE/pohn** from pepon (Gr) melon (Gr.p.) **PE/pohn**+cephala Latinized form of kephalē (Gr.) head (Gr.p.) **ke/fah/LAY**

electra (A.p.) **e/LEK/tra** or **ee/LEK/tra** Electra from Ēlektra (Gr) (Gr.p.) **AY/lek/trah** Leatherwood & Reeves (1983) suggested this refers to a nymph. There was a sea nymph Electra, daughter of Oceanus according to Moreford & Lenardon (1977). However, another obvious Electra would be the daughter of Agamemnon who mourns the death of her father slain by her mother after his return from the Trojan War according to Greek tradition. Perhaps the whale's distinctive black coloration and 'cape' pattern brought the mourning Electra to mind.

Tucuxi *Sotalia fluviatilis* (Gervais, 1853)

Sotalia (A.p.) **soh/TA/li/a** coined or of unknown origin according to Leatherwood & Reeves (1983) and Gotch (1979).

fluviatilis (A.p.) **floo/vee/AY/ti/lis** fluviātīlis (L) of a river (L.p.) **fluu/wi/AH/ti/lis**

Pacific hump-backed dolphin *Sousa chinensis* (Osbeck, 1765)

Sousa (A.p.) **SOO/sa** Sousa is of unknown origin according to Leatherwood & Reeves (1983), but perhaps refers to Sousa (Gr.p.) **SOO/sah**, the royal city of the Persians, and the appearance of the dolphin in the waters of both central and east Asia.

chinensis (A.p.) **CHĪ/nen/sis** China+ensis (L) belonging to

Atlantic hump-backed dolphin *Sousa teuszii* (Kükenthal, 1892)

Sousa (A.p.) **SOO/sa** Sousa is of unknown origin, according to Leatherwood & Reeves (1983), but perhaps refers to Sousa (Gr.p.) **SOO/sa**, the royal city of the Persians and the appearance of the dolphin in the waters of both central and east Asia.

teuszii (A.p.) **TYOOS/zi/ee** or **TYOOS/zi/i** Teusz is a person's name according to Rice (1998)+-ius common Latin name ending Teuszii (of Teuszius) of Teusz. The final 'i' is a Latin word ending indicating possessive case, pronounced 'ee'.

Indian humpback dolphin or Plumbeous dolphin *Sousa plumbea* (Cuvier, 1829)

Sousa (A.p.) **SOO/sa** *Sousa* is of unknown origin, according to Leatherwood & Reeves (1983), but perhaps refers to *Sousa* (Gr.p.) **SOO/sa**, the royal city of the Persians and the appearance of the dolphin in the waters of both central and east Asia.

plumbea (A.p.) **PLUM/be/a** (plumbeus) / *plumbea* (L.) leaden (L.p.) **PLUUM/be/a**

Rough-toothed dolphin *Steno bredanensis* (Lesson, 1828)

Steno (A.p.) **STE/noh** Gotch (1979) thinks *Steno* was named after Dr. Nikolaus Steno, a noted Danish anatomist and author. This seems likely although Leatherwood & Reeves believe *Steno* is derived from *stenos* (Gr.) narrow.

bredanensis (A.p.) **bre/da/NEN/sis** *Breda*+*ensis* (L.) belonging to. Van Breda of Ghent made the original sketch of the species (Gotch, 1979).

Pacific white-sided dolphin *Lagenorhynchus obliquidens* (Gill, 1865)

Lagenorhynchus (A.p.) **la/jee/no/RING/kus** *lagēna* (L.) large flask (L.p.) **la/GAY/na**+*rhyinchus* Latinized form of *rhynchos* (Gr.) snout (Gr.p.) **RHŪN/kos**

obliquidens (A.p.) **o/BLĪ/kwi/dens** *oblīquus* (L.) slanting (L.p.) **ob/LEE/kwuus+dēns** (L.) tooth (L.p.) **DAYNS**

Dusky dolphin *Lagenorhynchus obscurus* (Gray, 1828)

Lagenorhynchus (A.p.) **la/jee/no/RING/kus** *lagēna* (L.) large flask (L.p.) **la/GAY/na**+*rhyinchus* Latinized form of *rhynchos* (Gr.) snout (Gr.p.) **RHŪN/kos**

obscurus (A.p.) **ob/SKOO/rus** *obscurūs* (L.) dark (L.p.) **op/SKOO/ruus**

White-beaked dolphin *Lagenorhynchus albirostris* (Gray, 1846)

Lagenorhynchus (A.p.) **la/jee/no/RING/kus** *lagēna* (L.) large flask (L.p.) **la/GAY/na**+*rhyinchus* Latinized form of *rhynchos* (Gr.) snout (Gr.p.) **RHŪN/kos**

albirostris (A.p.) **al/bi/ROHS/tris** from (*albus*)/*album* (L.) white (L.p.) **Al/buum** +*rōstrum* (L.) beak (L.p.) **ROHS/truum**

Atlantic white-sided dolphin *Lagenorhynchus acutus* (Gray, 1828)

Lagenorhynchus (A.p.) **la/jee/no/RING/kus** *lagēna* (L.) large flask (L.p.) **la/GAY/na**+*rhyinchus*

Latinized form of *rhynchos* (Gr.) snout (Gr.p.) **RHŪN/kos**
acutus (A.p.) **a/KOO/tus** *acūtus* (L.) sharp (L.p.) **a/KOO/tuus**

Hour-glass dolphin *Lagenorhynchus cruciger* (Quoy & Gaimard, 1824)

Lagenorhynchus (A.p.) **la/jee/no/RING/kus** *lagēna* (L.) large flask (L.p.) **la/GAY/na**+*rhyinchus* Latinized form of *rhynchos* (Gr.) snout (Gr.p.) **RHŪN/kos**

cruciger (A.p.) **KROO/si/fer** (Medieval Latin) cross-bearing from *crux* (L.) cross (L.p.) **KRU-UKS+** -*igere* from *agere* (L.) to carry (L.p.) **Al/ge/re**

Peale's dolphin *Lagenorhynchus australis* (Peale, 1848)

Lagenorhynchus (A.p.) **la/jee/no/RING/kus** *lagēna* (L.) large flask (L.p.) **la/GAY/na**+*rhyinchus* Latinized form of *rhynchos* (Gr.) snout (Gr.p.) **RHŪN/kos**

australis (A.p.) **aw/STRAY/lis** ^w *austrālis* (L.) southern (L.p.) **ows/TRAH/lis**

Risso's dolphin *Grampus griseus* (Cuvier, 1812)

Grampus (A.p.) **GRAM/pus** ^w *grampus* is derived from *crassus piscis* (L.) fat fish according to Burriss and Casson (1949) (L.p.) **KRA/suus PIS/kis**
griseus (A.p.) **GRI/zeus** *griseus* (Medieval Latin) gray (L.p.) **GREE/seuus**

Bottlenose dolphin *Tursiops truncatus* (Montagu, 1821)

Tursiops (A.p.) **TUR/si/ops** *tursio* or *thursiō* (L.) fish like a dolphin in Pliny's Natural History IX, 34 (L.p.) **TUUR/si/o** or **THUUR/si/oh** from *thyrsiōn* (Gr.) dolphin-like fish (Gr.p.) **THUR/si/ohn**+*ōps* (Gr.) eye, face (Gr.p.) **OHPS**

truncatus (A.p.) **trun/KAY/tus** *truncātus* (L.) cut off (L.p.) **truun/KAH/tuus**

Indian Ocean bottlenose dolphin *Tursiops aduncus* (Ehrenberg, 1833)

Tursiops (A.p.) **TUR/si/ops** *tursio* or *thursiō* (L.) fish like a dolphin in Pliny's Natural History IX, 34 (L.p.) **TUUR/si/o** or **THUUR/si/oh** from *thyrsiōn* (Gr.) dolphin-like fish (Gr.p.) **THUR/si/ohn**+*ōps* (Gr.) eye, face (Gr.p.) **OHPS**

aduncus (A.p.) **a/DUN/kus** *aduncus* (L.) hooked (L.p.) **ad/UUN/kuus**

Pantropical spotted dolphin *Stenella attenuata* (Gray, 1846)

Stenella (A.p.) **ste/NE/la** (*stenos*)/*stenē* (Gr.) narrow (Gr.p.) **ste/NAY** +*ella* (L.) little
attenuata (A.p.) **a/te/nu/AY/ta** (*attenuātus*)/*attenuāta* (L.) reduced (L.p.) **a/te/nuu/AH/ta**

Atlantic spotted dolphin *Stenella frontalis* (Cuvier, 1829)

Stenella (A.p.) **ste/NE/la** (stenos)/stenē (Gr.) narrow (Gr.p.) **ste/NAY** +ella (L) little
frontalis (A.p.) **fron/TAY/lis** frōns (L) forehead (L.p.) **FROHNS+** ālis (L) pertaining to

Spinner dolphin *Stenella longirostris* (Gray, 1828)

Stenella (A.p.) **ste/NE/la** (stenos)/stenē (Gr.) narrow (Gr.p.) **ste/NAY** +ella (L) little
longirostris (A.p.) **lon/ji/ROHS/tris** from (longus)/longum (L) long (L.p.) **LON/guum** +rōstrum (L) beak (L.p.) **ROHS/truum**

Clymene dolphin *Stenella clymene* (Gray, 1850)

Stenella (A.p.) **ste/NE/la** (stenos)/stenē (Gr.) narrow (Gr.p.) **ste/NAY** +ella (L) little
clymene (A.p.) **KLĪ/me/nee** or **KLĪ/me/nee**
Clymene Latinized form of Klymenē (Gr.) daughter of Oceanus according to Moreford & Lenardon (1977) (Gr.p.) **klīū/ME/nay**

Striped dolphin *Stenella coeruleoalba* (Meyen, 1833)

Stenella (A.p.) **ste/NE/la** (stenos)/stenē (Gr.) narrow (Gr.p.) **ste/NAY** +ella (L) little
coeruleoalba **see/ru/le/oh/AL/ba** (coeruleus = caeruleus)/caerulea (L) dark blue (L.p.) **ki/RUU/lefa** + (albus)/alba (L) white (L.p.) **AL/ba**

Common dolphin *Delphinus delphis* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Delphinus (A.p.) **del/FĪ/nus** ^w delphīnus (L) dolphin (L.p.) **del/FEE/nuus** from delphis (Gr) dolphin (Gr.p.) **del/FIS**. Pliny described the delphinus as the swiftest of animals, friendly to man and appreciative of music in his Natural History IX 20 & 24.
delphis (A.p.) **DEL/fis** delphis (Gr) dolphin (Gr.p.) **del/FIS**

Cape dolphin *Delphinus capensis* (Gray, 1828)

Delphinus (A.p.) **del/FĪ/nus** ^w delphīnus (L) dolphin (L.p.) **del/FEE/nuus** from delphis (Gr) dolphin (Gr.p.) **del/FIS**. Pliny described the delphinus as the swiftest of animals, friendly to man and appreciative of music in his Natural History IX 20 & 24.
capensis (A.p.) **kay/ PEN/sis** or **ka/PEN/sis**
Cape+ -ensis (L) belonging to

Arabian common or Saddleback dolphin *Delphinus tropicalis* (van Bree, 1971)

Delphinus (A.p.) **del/FĪ/nus** ^w delphīnus (L) dolphin (L.p.) **del/FEE/nuus** from delphis (Gr) dolphin (Gr.p.) **del/FIS**. Pliny described the delphinus as the swiftest of animals, friendly to man and appreciative of music in his Natural History IX 20 & 24.
tropicalis (A.p.) or **tro/pi/KA/lis** tropics or from tropicus (L) Tropical (L.p.) **TRO/pi/kuus** + -ālis (L) pertaining to tropicus (L) from tropikos (Gr) of the solstice (Gr.p.) **tro/pi/KOS**

Fraser's dolphin *Lagenodelphis hosei* (Fraser, 1956)

Lagenodelphis (A.p.) **la/jee/NO/DEL/fis** lagēna (L) large flask (L.p.) **la/GAY/na+** delphis (Gr.) dolphin (Gr.p.) **del/FIS**

hosei (A.p.) **HOH/ze/lee** or **HOH/zee** or **HOH/zēi** or **HOH/zī** hosei (of Hoseus) of Hose. The final 'i' indicates the possessive case and is pronounced 'ee' in Latin. C. Hose in Sarawak obtained the specimen in 1895 according to Leatherwood & Reeves (1983).

Northern right whale dolphin *Lissodelphis borealis* (Peale, 1848)

Lissodelphis (A.p.) **li/soh/DEL/fis** lissos (Gr.) smooth (Gr.p.) **li/SOS+**delphis (Gr.) dolphin (Gr.p.) **del/FIS**
borealis (A.p.) **boh/ree/A/lis** ^w or **bo/re/AY/lis** borealis Boreās (L) North Wind+ālis (L) pertaining to (L.p.) **bo/re/AH/lis**

Southern right whale dolphin *Lissodelphis peronii* (Lacépède, 1804)

Lissodelphis (A.p.) **li/soh/DEL/fis** lissos (Gr.) smooth (Gr.p.) **li/SOS+**delphis (Gr.) dolphin (Gr.p.) **del/FIS**
peronii (A.p.) **pe/ROH/ni/ee** or **pe/ROH/ni/i** peronii (of Peronius) of Peron+ -ius common Latin name ending. The final 'i' indicates the possessive case and is pronounced 'ee' in Latin. F. Peron, a French naturalist, observed these dolphins according to Leatherwood & Reeves (1983).

Commerson's dolphin *Cephalorhynchus commersonii* (Lacépède, 1804)

Cephalorhynchus (A.p.) **se/fa/lo/RING/kus** cephalā Latinized form of kephalē (Gr.) head (Gr.p.) **ke/fa/LAY** +rhynchus Latinized form of rhynchos (Gr.) snout (Gr.p.) **RHŪN/kos**
commersonii (A.p.) **ko/mer/So/ni/ee** or **ko/mer/SO/ni/i** Commersonii (of Commersonius) of Commerson+ -ius common Latin name ending. The final 'i' indicates the possessive case and is pronounced as 'ee' in Latin. Commerson, a doctor and botanist in the 18th Century, described the species according to Leatherwood & Reeves (1983).

Heaviside's dolphin *Cephalorhynchus heavisidii* (Gray, 1828)

Cephalorhynchus (A.p.) **se/fa/lo/RING/kus** cephalā Latinized form of kephalē (Gr.) head (Gr.p.) **ke/fa/LAY** +rhynchus Latinized form of rhynchos (Gr.) snout (Gr.p.) **RHŪN/kos**
heavisidii (A.p.) **he/vee/SĪ/di/ee** or **he/vee/SĪ/di/i** Heavisidii (of Heavisidius) of Heaviside+ -ius common Latin name ending. The final 'i' indicates the possessive case and is pronounced as 'ee' in Latin. Captain Heaviside brought the first specimen from the Cape of Good Hope to England in 1827 according to Leatherwood &

- Reeves (1983), who noted that an 'e' was added in error to his name.
- Hector's dolphin** *Cephalorhynchus hectori* (van Bénédén, 1881)
Cephalorhynchus (A.p.) **se/fa/lo/RING/kus** Latinized form of kephalē (Gr.) head (Gr.p.) **ke/fa/LAY** +rhynchus Latinized form of rhynchos (Gr.) snout (Gr.p.) **RHŪN/kos**
Hector (A.p.) **HEK/to/ree** or **HEK/to/ri** hectori (of Hectorus) of Hector. However, note that the Romans would not have used a second declension word ending, indicating possession, 'i', on a third declension proper noun, Hector, borrowed from Greek. For the Romans, 'of Hector' was Hektoris. Hector, a New Zealander, collected the species in 1869, according to Leatherwood & Reeves (1983).
- Black dolphin** *Cephalorhynchus eutropia* (Gray, 1846)
Cephalorhynchus (A.p.) **se/fa/lo/RING/kus** Latinized form of kephalē (Gr.) head (Gr.p.) **ke/fa/LAY**+rhynchus Latinized form of rhynchos (Gr.) snout (Gr.p.) **RHŪN/kos**
eutropia (A.p.) **yoo/TRO/pi/a** eutropia (Gr.) versatility (Gr.p.) **eh-oo/tro/PI/ah** from eutropos (Gr.) versatile. This derivation seems more likely than the derivation offered by Leatherwood and Reeves (1983). eu (Gr.) well+tropis (Gr) head ? or tropidos (Gr.) keel.
- Dall's porpoise** *Phocoenoides dalli* (True, 1885)
Phocoenoides (A.p.) **foh/see/NOI/des** phocoena variant of phocaena Latinized form of phōkaina (Gr.) porpoise (Gr.p.) **FOH/ki/nah** +oid (Gr.) like
dalli (A.p.) **DAW/lee** or **DAW/li** Dalli (of Dallus) of Dall. The final 'i' indicates the possessive case and is pronounced 'ee' in Latin. W. Dall, an American zoologist, provided notes and drawings of two specimens according to Leatherwood & Reeves (1983).
- Spectacled porpoise** *Phocoena dioptrica* (Lahille, 1912)
Phocoena (A.p.) **foh/SEE/na** variant of phocaena Latinized form of phōkaina (Gr.) porpoise (Gr.p.) **FOH/ki/nah**
dioptrica (A.p.) **di/OP/tri/ka** dioptrica Latinized form of dioptrikos (Gr.) of a dioptra (Gr.) optical instrument for measuring angles and altitudes (Gr.p.) **di/OP/trah**
- Harbour porpoise** *Phocoena phocoena* (Linnaeus, 1758)
Phocoena (A.p.) **foh/SEE/na** ^w variant of phocaena Latinized form of phōkaina (Gr.) porpoise (Gr.p.) **FOH/ki/nah**
- Burmeister's porpoise** *Phocoena spinipinnis* (Burmeister, 1865)
Phocoena (A.p.) **foh/SEE/na** ^w variant of phocaena Latinized form of phōkaina (Gr.) porpoise (Gr.p.) **FOH/ki/nah**
spinipinnis (A.p.) **spi/ni/PI/nis** from spīna (L) thorn (L.p.) **SPEE/na** +pinna/penna (L) wing (L.p.) **PI/na**
- Vaquita** *Phocoena sinus* (Norris and McFarland, 1958)
Phocoena (A.p.) **foh/SEE/na** ^w variant of phocaena Latinized form of phōkaina (Gr.) porpoise (Gr.p.) **FOH/ki/nah sinus** (A.p.) **SI/nus** ^w or **SI/nus** sinus (L) curve, fold, bay (L.p.) **SI/nuus**
- Finless porpoise** *Neophocaena phocaenoides* (Cuvier, 1829)
Neophocaena (A.p.) **nee/oh/foh/SEE/na** neos (Gr.) new (Gr.p.) **NE/os**+phocaena Latinized form of phōkaina (Gr.) porpoise (Gr.p.) **FOH/ki/nah phocaenoides** (A.p.) **foh/see/NOI/des** Latinized phōkaina (Gr.) porpoise (Gr.p.) **FOH/ki/nah** +oid (Gr.) like
- Indian river-dolphin** *Platanista gangetica* (Roxburg, 1801)
Platanista (A.p.) **pla/ta/NIS/ta** ^w platanista (L) fish of the Ganges (L.p.) **pla/ta/NIS/ta** from platanistēs (Gr.) fish of the Ganges (Gr.p.) **plah/tah/nis/TAYS**
gangetica (A.p.) **gan/JEE/ti/ka** (gangēticus)/gangētica (L) of the Ganges (L.p.) **gan/GAY/ti/ka** from gangētikos (G) from the Ganges (Gr.p.) **gahn/GAY/ti/kos**
- Amazon river-dolphin or Boto** *Inia geoffrensis* (de Blainville, 1817)
Inia (A.p.) **I/ni/a** Inia was a native name for the dolphin in Bolivia according to Leatherwood & Reeves (1983).
geoffrensis (A.p.) **jef/REN/sis** Geoffrey+ensis (L) belonging to. Geoffrey St. Hilaire helped obtain specimens according to Leatherwood & Reeves (1983).
- Chinese/Yangtse river-dolphin or Baiji** *Lipotes vexillifer* (Miller, 1918)
Lipotes (A.p.) **LI/po/tes** or **LĪ/poh/tes** lipos (Gr.) fat (Gr.p.) **LI/pos** or less likely, but according to Leatherwood and Reeves (1983) and Gotch (1979), leipo (Gr.) I leave
vexillifer (A.p.) **vek/SI/li/fer** vēxillum (L) flag (L.p.) **way/KSI/luum** (L) flag+fer 'bearer' from ferre (L) to bear
- La Plata dolphin or Franciscana** *Pontoporia blainvillei* (Gervais & d'Orbigny, 1844)
Pontoporia (A.p.) **pon/to/PO/ri/a** pontos (Gr.) sea (Gr.p.) **PON/tos** +poros (Gr.) passage (Gr.p.) **PO/ros**

blainvillei (A.p.) **BLAYN/vil/lee** or **BLAYN/vil/ee** or **BLAYN/vil/efi** or **BLAYN/vil/i** Blainvillei (of Blainvilleus) of Blainville. The final 'i' indicates the possessive case and is pronounced 'ee' in Latin. H.M. Ducrotay de Blainville (1777–1850) was a well-known naturalist according to Leatherwood & Reeves (1983).

Subfamilies

Orcaellinae

Orcaellinae (A.p.) **awr/kee/L̄/nee** or **awr/kale/L̄/nee** orca (L) whale (L.p.) **OR/ka+ella** (L) little+in (L) like+ae (L)*

Globicephalinae

Globicephalinae (A.p.) **gloh/bi/se/fa/L̄/nee** globus (L) sphere (L.p.) **GLO/buus+cephala** Latinized form of kephalē (Gr.) head (Gr.p.) **ke/fah/LAY +in** (L) like+ae (L)*

Steninae

Steninae (A.p.) **ste/N̄/nee** Gotch (1979) thinks *Steno bredanensis*, a species of this subfamily was named after Dr Nikolaus Steno, a noted Danish anatomist and author. This seems likely although Leatherwood & Reeves (1983) believed Steno is derived from stenos (Gr.) narrow. Steno+in (L) like+ae (L)*

Delphininae

Delphininae (A.p.) **del/fi/N̄/nee** or **del/fi/N̄/nee** delphīnus or delphīn (L) dolphin (L.p.) **del/FEE/nuus** from delphis (Gr) dolphin (Gr.p.) **del/FIS +in** (L) like+ae (L)*

Lissodelphinae

Lissodelphinae (A.p.) **lilsoh/dell/F̄/nee** lissos (Gr) smooth (Gr.p.) **li/SOS+ delphis** (Gr.) dolphin (Gr.p.) **del/FIS+ in** (L) like+ae (L)*

Cephalorhynchinae

Cephalorhynchinae (A.p.) **se/fa/loh/ring/K̄/nee** Latinized form of kephalē (Gr.) head (Gr.p.) **ke/fa/LAY +rhynchus** Latinized form of rhynchos (Gr.) snout (Gr.p.) **RHŪN/kos +in** (L) like+ae (L)*

Other Terms

Mysticetes

mysticetes (A.p.) **MIS/ti/seets** ^w mystax (Gr.) moustache (Gr.p.) **MŪS/taks+cētē** (L) whales (L.p.) **KAY/tay** plural of cētōs (L) whale (L.p.) **KAY/tos** from kētōs (Gr) huge fish (Gr.p.) **KAY/tos +s** (for English plural which is obviously redundant)

Odontocetes

odontocetes (A.p.) **oh/DON/to/seets** ^w odous (odont-) (Gr) tooth (Gr.p.) **o/DOOS+cētē** (L) whales (L.p.) **KAY/tay** plural of cētōs (L) whale (L.p.) **KAY/tos** from kētōs (Gr) huge fish (Gr.p.) **KAY/tos +s** (for English plural which is obviously redundant)

Delphinids

delphinids (A.p.) **del/F̄/midz** delphīnus or delphīn (L) dolphin (L.p.) **del/FEE/nuus** from delphis (Gr) dolphin (Gr.p.) **del/FIS+id** (Gr) related to+s (for English plural)

Appendix: Latin and Greek elements and Latin declensions used in binomial classification of cetaceans.

Phylogenetic Designation	Derivation	Ending
<i>Order</i>		
Cetacea	cētus/cētōs (L) whale from kētōs (Gr) huge fish	a (L) (2nd declension neuter plural)
<i>Suborders</i>		
Mysticeti	mystax (Gr) moustache+cētus (L) whale	i (L) (2nd declension masculine plural)
Odontoceti	odous (Gr) tooth+cētus (L) whale	
<i>Superfamilies</i>		
Delphinoidea	delphīnus/delphīn (L) dolphin from delphis (Gr) dolphin	oid/oide (Gr) like (Burriss & Casson, 1949)+a (L) (2nd declension neuter plural)
Platanistoidea	platanista (L) dolphin of the Ganges	
Physeteroidea	physētēr (L) whale from physētēr (Gr) blow pipe, whale	
Ziphioidea	xiphias (L) swordfish from xiphias (Gr) swordfish	

Appendix: Continued

Phylogenetic Designation	Derivation	Ending
<i>Families</i>		
Balaenidae	balaena (L) whale	id (Gr) related to (Ayers, 1975) +ae (L) (1st declension plural)
Neobalaenidae	neos (Gr) new + bālaena (L) whale	
Balaenopteridae	bālaena (L) + ptera (Gr) wing	
Eschrichtiidae	Eschricht	
Physeteridae	physētēr (L) whale from physētēr (Gr) blow pipe, whale	
Kogiidae	Kogia	
Monodontidae	monos (Gr) single + odous (Gr) tooth	
Ziphiidae	xiphias (L) swordfish from xiphias (Gr) swordfish	
Delphinidae	delphīnus/delphīn (L) dolphin from delphis (Gr) dolphin	id (Gr) related to (Ayers, 1975) +ae (L) (1st declension plural)
Phocoenidae	phōkaina (Gr) porpoise	
Platanistidae	platanista (L) dolphin of the Ganges	
Iniidae	inia (Bolivian) dolphin	
Pontoporiidae	pontos (Gr) sea + poros (Gr) passage	
Lipotidae	lipos (Gr) fat	
<i>Subfamilies</i>		
Orcaellinae	orca (L) whale + ella (L) little	īn (L) like (Burriss & Casson, 1949) +ae (L) (1st declension plural)
Globicephalinae	globus (L) sphere + kephalē (Gr) head	
Steninae	Steno	
Delphininae	delphīnus/delphīn (L) from delphis (Gr) dolphin	
Lissodelphinae	lissos (Gr) smooth + delphis (Gr) dolphin	
Cephalorhynchinae	kephalē (Gr) head + rhynchos (Gr) snout	
<i>Other terms</i>		
Mysticetes	mystax (Gr) moustache + cētē (L) whales (plural of cētōs (L) whale)	s English plural
Odontocetes	odous (Gr) tooth + cētē (L) whales (plural of cētōs (L) whale)	
Delphinids	delphīnus/delphīn (L) from delphis (Gr) dolphin + id (Gr) related to	

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