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5. OCCURRENCE OF INDIAN PANGOLIN *MANIS CRASSICAUDATA* IN ALIGARH, UTTAR PRADESH

Neither of the two pangolins reported from the Indian subcontinent are known to occur in Aligarh area. The Indian pangolin *Manis crassicaudata* is reported from peninsular India, while the Chinese pangolin *M. pentadactyla* occurs in northeastern India. Therefore, it was quite surprising that a pangolin was sighted in Aligarh (27° 29' to 28° 11' N and 77° 29' to 28° 39' E) in May 1997. The animal was captured and subsequently killed by the inhabitants of a local village called Barola Jafrabad 3 km from the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) campus. The pangolin was identified as *Manis crassicaudata* from the measurements noted below by the AMU Museology Department where it is now on display.

| | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Date of collection | 15.v.1997 |
| Total length | 105 cm |
| Length of head | 10.5 cm |
| Tail | 50.5 cm |
| Forelimb | 8.5 cm + 5.5 cm (claw) |
| Hindlimb | 7 cm + 0.75 cm (claw) |
| Width: | |
| Centre | 48 cm |
| Shoulder | 47.5 cm |
| Lower (hind) Portion | 50 cm |

I thank Dr. Abdur Raheem, Lecturer, Department of Museology, AMU, for providing detailed measurements.

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6. STRANDED WHALES ON THE GUJARAT COAST

In this note, we report six stranded whales seen between 1983 to 1998. We had personally seen four specimens in Kutch district. There are reports of cetaceans, dolphins, porpoises and whales in the waters of Gujarat. Whales, when seen dead in deep waters, are brought to the coast by inquisitive fishermen, or by the natural force of tides. The reports of such dead whales in the newspapers attract hundreds of people to see these gigantic marine mammals.

| S.no. | Place | Date & year | Remarks |
|-------|-------------------|---------------|---------|
| 1. | Asharmata | April 1983 | 15.24 m |
| 2. | Sindhrodi | March 1984 | 15.24 m |
| 3. | Kalumbhar Island | August 1988 | 8.38 m* |
| 4. | Bhadreshwar coast | February 1977 | 13.72 m |
| 5. | Ganga creek | July 1997 | 6.10 m |
| 6. | Jakhau coast | July 1998 | 4.27 m |

*Blue Whale

It seems that most of the stranded whales seen in Gujarat coast are the blue whales *Balaenoptera musculus*; sometimes sperm whales *Physeter catodon* may also be observed, e.g. specimen No. 6 seen on Jakhau coast.

The cause of death of the whales is not known. Interestingly, three specimens out of the six were seen from February to April and the remaining from July to August.

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