

## NOTES.

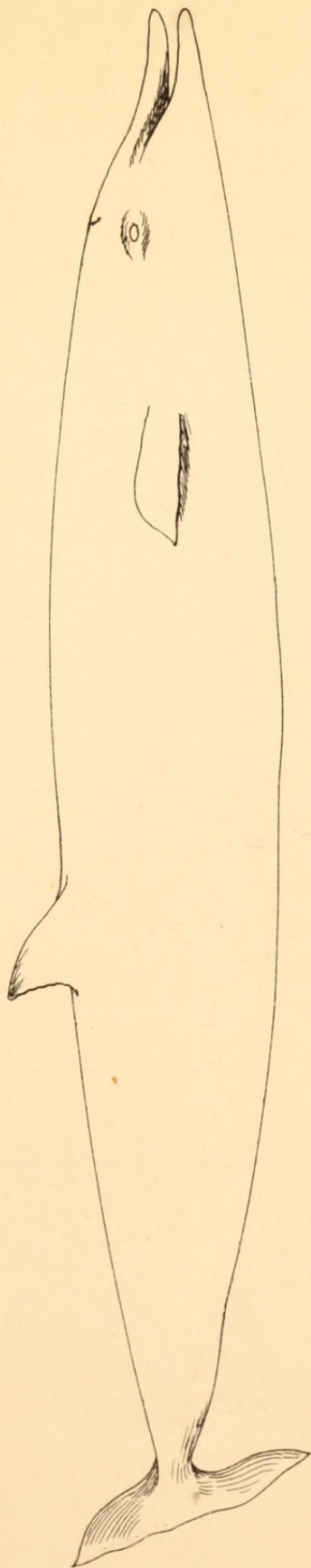
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A whale (*Ziphius layardi*, Flower) recently stranded near Southport, Plate xix.—An opportunity of examining in the flesh any of the Australian whales so seldom occurs, that when found it should be made a note of. Between Saturday and Sunday last a small whale being discovered stranded on the Southport beach, was as soon as possible forwarded to the Museum where it arrived on Tuesday morning. It was found to be a young female of one of the Ziphiidæ or Beaked whales. The general form is that of a long double cone, with the tail anterior to the flanks vertically compressed. The jaws equal in length and somewhat curved, ascending slightly from before the middle to the tips and abruptly to the angle of the gape. The eye small and in a line with the angle of the mouth. The blow-hole on the top of the head a little in front of the level of the eye, curved with its end turned forwards. The pectorals small. The dorsal rather larger and slightly falcate. The flukes broad and with a low medial ridge in the vertebral line. The skin entirely naked, dull black above, purplish-black on the lower parts where it is marked by numerous scars, old and fresh. The epiderm thin but firm, not deciduous as in the dugong. Corium about  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{1}{3}$  inch thick, soft and easily torn. Owing to the lapse of time since death and heat of the locality, the viscera, bathed in extravasated blood, were to my great disappointment unfit for examination; indeed they could not be satisfactorily separated. That the ovary was distinct and the stomach empty was about all that could be ascertained. There are no teeth above the gums in either jaw and none could be felt by the knife beneath the skin.

### MEASUREMENTS.

Length	...	...	12 ft. 4 in.	Girth of body	...	...	7 ft. 1 in.
Snout to pectoral	...	...	3 ft. 1 in.	Pectoral, length	...	...	1 ft. 3 in.
„ eye	...	...	1 ft. 9 in.	„ breadth	...	...	0 ft. 4½ in.
„ gape	...	...	1 ft. 2½ in.	Dorsal, length	...	...	0 ft. 9 in.
„ dorsal	...	...	7 ft. 6 in.	„ height	...	...	0 ft. 6 in.
„ vent	...	...	9 ft. 3 in.	Tail, breadth of flukes	...	...	2 ft. 10 in.
Girth of head	...	...	3 ft. 7 in.	„ depth	...	...	0 ft. 11½ in.

There is little doubt that the animal is *Ziphius layardi*, but until the skull and vertebræ are available for inspection a positive decision cannot be given.—C. W. DE VIS.



**ZIPHIUS LAYARDI, FLOWER.**





Labials 7-7, the fifth upper beneath the eye. Nasals very small, orifice central. Ear simple edged, or with one or two



De Vis, Charles Walter. 1885. "A whale (*Ziphius layardi*, Flower) recently stranded near Southport. [Note]." *The Proceedings of the Royal Society of Queensland* 1(4), 174–174. <https://doi.org/10.5962/p.351030>.

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