

TAXONOMIC STATUS OF THE
DELPHINID (MAMMALIA: CETACEA)
TURSIO? PANOPE PHILIPPI, 1895

Robert L. Brownell, Jr. and James G. Mead

Abstract.—*Tursio? panope* Philippi, 1895 is a junior synonym of *Lagenorhynchus obscurus* (Gray, 1828) and not *Cephalorhynchus eutropia* (Gray, 1846) as noted by previous authors.

Rodolpho Amando Philippi (1895) mentioned a new species of dolphin as *Tursio? panope* based on a skull in the Museo Nacional de Historia Natural, Santiago, Chile (MNHN-S). He described his specimen in more detail in 1896 (p. 14, pls. 4, 5, and 6). No locality was given for the holotype but Philippi (1896:14) implied that it was from Chile. The generic and specific identity of this delphinid have remained uncertain.

True (1903:141) was unable to determine the generic affinity of *T.? panope* with certainty, but suggested that it probably represented a new genus. He based this idea on Philippi's drawing, which showed a bowed rostrum in lateral view (Fig. 1). Trouessart (1904:766) referred to the specimen as *Lisodelphis? panope*. Harmer (1922:631) believed that *T.? panope* might belong to the genus *Cephalorhynchus*. Miller (1928:171) was also uncertain about the generic affinity of the specimen but felt that it eventually would be placed in the genus *Cephalorhynchus*. He made this determination based on photographs of the type specimen taken by Waldo L. Schmitt in 1926. Unfortunately, these photographs were not published until now (Fig. 2). Cabrera (1961:615), Hershkovitz (1966:75), Donoso-Barros (1975:33) and Tamayo & Frassinetti (1980:364) listed *T. panope* as a junior synonym of *Cephalorhynchus eutropia*. Sielfeld (1980:277), in his list of marine mammal specimens in Chilean museums, included a skull MNHN-S 584, under *C. eutropia*. This

specimen was later correctly identified as the holotype of *Tursio? panope* by Goodall *et al.* (1988:203). They noted that the known range of condylobasal length (CBL) in *C. eutropia* is 302 to 364 mm (mean 341.3 mm, $n = 13$), whereas the CBL of the type of *T. panope* was slightly greater than 379 mm (the tip of the rostrum is damaged). They left *T. panope* as *incertae sedis*.

All previous authors have cited Philippi, 1896, as the type description of *Tursio? panope*. We have used Philippi, 1895. Although Philippi (1895) provided only a synopsis of his 1896 account of *Tursio? panope* and several other new small cetaceans, the description given is valid under the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature. We believe that Philippi's 1895 work was published before Philippi (1896) because a reprint of the 1895 paper in the Museo Nacional de Historia Natural, Montevideo has a separate cover that is also dated 1895. The year of publication, therefore, should be Philippi, 1895, not Philippi, 1896.

Much confusion has existed regarding the specimens, numbers, and labels of the small cetaceans in the collection at the MNHN-S. In 1986 RLB examined the type specimen of *Tursio? panope* and confirmed its identity as the type. Cranial damage matches that shown in the photographs taken by Waldo L. Schmitt in 1926 (see Fig. 2) and the original drawings of the type specimen (see Fig. 1). The specimen bears the (old) number 937. The catalog entry for the specimen

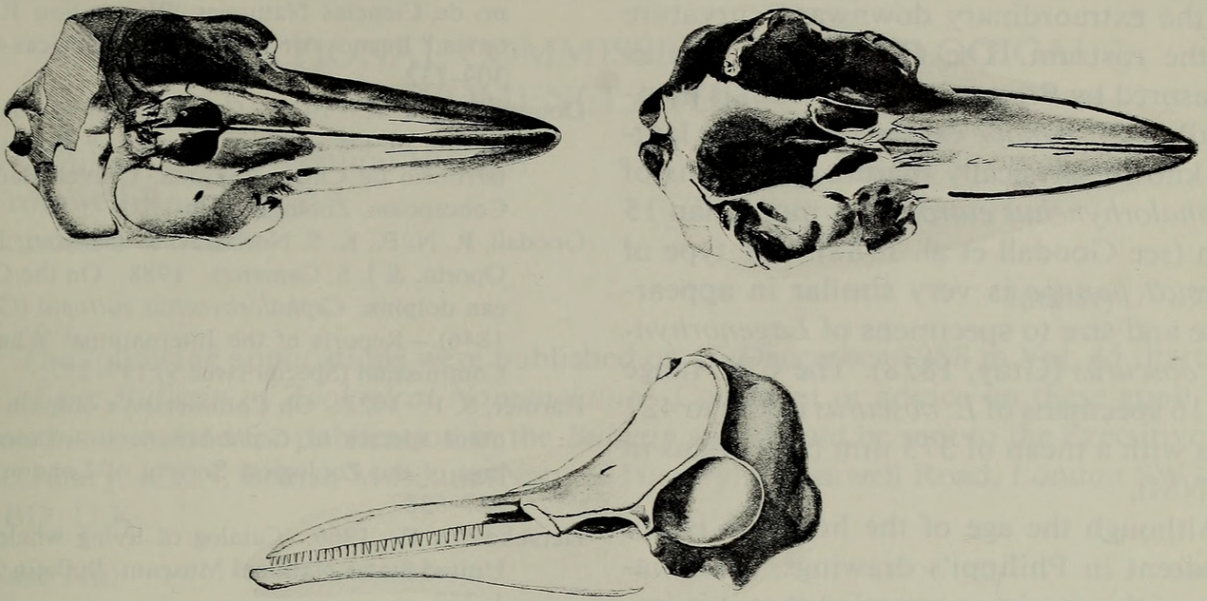


Fig. 1. Original drawings of the holotype of *Tursio? panope* Philippi 1895, from Philippi 1896, Plates 4(2), 5(2) and 6(2).

states: "*Tursio? panope* Ph. craneo San Vicente 1887 hallado en la playa." San Vicente is near Concepción, Chile ($36^{\circ}44'S$). This catalog number was probably assigned by Philippi. The new number 584 was assigned by the present Curator of Mammals, José Yáñez, who started a new catalog and num-

bering system. The cards and catalog for the old system were retained (see discussion of this in Goodall et al. 1988:213).

Very little has been published on the type of *Tursio? panope*. With no other description available except for the drawings of the skull, all subsequent authors were puzzled

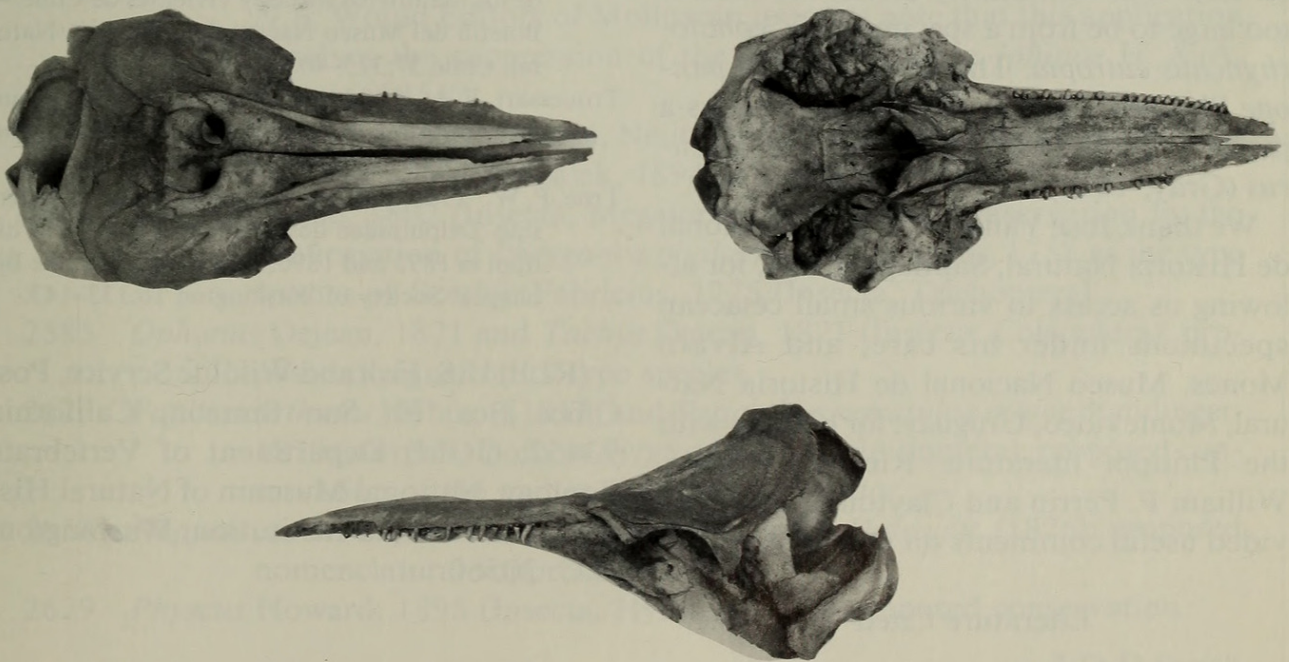


Fig. 2. Dorsal, ventral and lateral views of the holotype of *Tursio? panope* Philippi, 1895. The condylobasal length is 380+ mm. Photography by Waldo L. Schmitt, 1926.

by the extraordinary downward curvature of the rostrum. The CBL (380+ mm as measured by Brownell; the rostrum is damaged) of *T.?* *panope* exceeds that of the largest known physically mature specimens of *Cephalorhynchus eutropia* by more than 15 mm (see Goodall et al. 1988). The type of *Tursio?* *panope* is very similar in appearance and size to specimens of *Lagenorhynchus obscurus* (Gray, 1828). The CBL range for 16 specimens of *L. obscurus* is 333 to 421 mm with a mean of 373 mm (specimens in USNM).

Although the age of the holotype is not apparent in Philippi's drawings, examination of the specimen revealed that it is immature. The basioccipital has not yet fused with the vomer, and the left zygomatic has not yet fused with the parietal and exoccipital. The upper tooth count of the holotype is 28 on the left and 29 or 30 on the right. This is a minimum count because of the damage to the tip of the rostrum. The mandibular tooth count is 29 on each side.

The CBL, skull shape and ventral topography of the type of *Tursio?* *panope* correspond closely to all specimens of *Lagenorhynchus obscurus* examined by us. Based on CBL and immaturity alone, the skull is too large to be from a specimen of *Cephalorhynchus eutropia*. Therefore, *Tursio?* *panope* Philippi, 1895 is reidentified here as a junior synonym of *Lagenorhynchus obscurus* (Gray, 1828).

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