

GOOSEBEAKED WHALE, ZIPHIUS CAVIROSTRIS G.CUVIER, AND ROUGH-TOOTHED  
DOLPHIN, STENO BREDANENSIS G.CUVIER, IN THE ITALIAN SEAS °

by

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SUMMARY

This brief note refers about the presence and the distribution of the goosebeaked whale, Ziphius cavirostris, and the rough-toothed dolphin, Steno bredanensis, in the Italian seas. Both species are here considered as uncommon.

RESUME

Ce bref travail examine le peu de nouvelles jusqu'ici collectionnées du "Projet Cetacea-Italie" concernant la présence du Ziphius cavirostris et du Steno bredanensis dans les eaux italiennes. Toutes les deux espèces semblent peu communes et, de toute façon, de difficile identification dans la mer. Il est très probable que la présence de ces deux espèces dans la Méditerranée peut-être liée à des phénomènes de petites migrations périodiques.

This note reports the new data about the goosebeaked whale, Ziphius cavirostris, G.Cuvier 1823, and the rough-toothed dolphin, Steno bredanensis (G.Cuvier in Lesson, 1828), collected by Project Cetacea in the Italian seas.

Both species are uncommon in the Mediterranean Sea and very difficult to identify at sea (DI NATALE, 1979), and so the information about their biology is very scarce.

Ziphius cavirostris seems more frequent in the Ligurian Sea (TORTONESE, 1963) and in the Ionian Sea (see white numbers on the map);

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the Project has collected 2 certain sightings (concerning 16 specimens) and 4 strandings have been noticed, too. The numerical composition of the schools is reported in the table below.

specimens per school													
1	2	3	4	5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-100	101-500	> 500
4	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
amount of records													

Steno bredanensis seems to be distributed mainly in the southern seas (see black numbers on the map), where 2 certain sightings (concerning 11 specimens) have been noticed. The numerical composition of the school is reported in the table below.

specimens per school													
1	2	3	4	5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-100	101-500	> 500
1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
amount of records													

Is possible that a few specimens of both species could enter into the Mediterranean sea, following a probable migration course or following the great streams coming into from the Atlantic Ocean

#### REFERENCES

DI NATALE A., 1979 - Progress of research relating to mediterranean cetaceans. Project Cetacea, Special report V. Annex to: Mem. Biol. Mar. Ocean., IX(1-2), 50 pp.

TORTONESE E., 1963 - Insolita comparsa di Cetacei (Ziphius cavirostris G.Cuv.) nel Golfo di Genova. Natura, LIV, 120-122.

