

THE MINKE WHALE (BALAEOPTERA ACUTOROSTRATA, LACÉPÈDE) IN THE
ITALIAN SEAS °

by

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SUMMARY

All the data about the Minke whale (Balaenoptera acutorostrata), collected during the last four years in the Italian seas, are reported in this paper. The minke whale is regularly present in the central Mediterranean sea, but it is to be considered uncommon.

RESUME

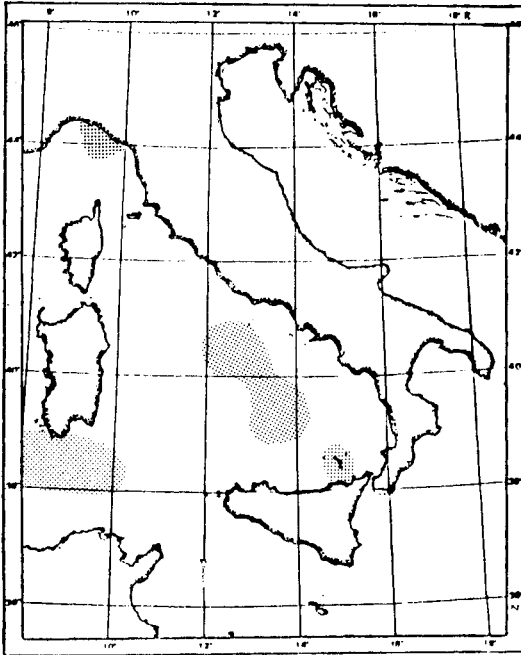
Dans cette note, on fournit les données qui concernent la Rorqual à museau pointu (Balaenoptera acutorostrata) collectionnés jusqu'en octobre 1982 dans les mers italiennes.

Au total, il s'agit de 8 signalations qui concernent 20 individus. De toute façon, la Rorqual à museau pointu, étant une espèce localement commune, est à se considérer une espèce qui fréquente régulièrement la Méditerranée centrale.

The new data collected by the Project Cetacea about the presence of the minke whale, Balaenoptera acutorostrata Lacépède 1804, in the Italian seas, confirm the distribution of this species in the western seas (see map n.1), but not in the Adriatic and in the Jonian seas (as reported by TOSCHI, 1965). This is probably due to the low number of reports (only 8, concerning 20 specimens) and it could be related, also, to a likely autumn-winter migration course in the western part of the Mediterranean sea.

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MAP N.1



A total amount of 4 sightings, (concerning 14 specimens) and 2 stranded animals have been examined. Furthermore, there are 2 different records of incidental captures by surface drifting nets, involving 4 specimens (DI NATALE & MANGANO, 1981).

A calf has been reported during January, but no data are still available about reproduction in the Italian seas.

The numerical composition of the schools is reported in the table below.

Examining the literature and the present data, this species is to be considered uncommon in the Mediterranean sea.

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
5	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
amount of records													

REFERENCES

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- TOSCHI A. - Fauna d'Italia - VII) Mammalia. Ed. Calderini, Bologna 647 pp., 1965.