

Short Communication**SECOND OCCURRENCE OF A DOLPHIN WITH
FIN-SHAPED HIND APPENDAGES FROM WATERS
OFF TAIJI, THE PACIFIC COAST OF JAPAN**

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Ohsumi and Kato (2008) reported on a very unique bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) having fin-shaped hind appendages, captured from waters off Taiji (33°35'N, 135°57'E), Wakayama Prefecture, Japan in 2006. We have currently confirmed the finding of another such animal with hind appendages occurring from waters off Taiji.

The recently discovered dolphin was found among dolphin fisheries harvest in Taiji. The animal was from a striped dolphin (*Stenella coeruleoalba*) school which consisted of 20 individuals seen on January 5th, 2023, 7 nautical miles off Taiji. The Taiji Whale Museum staffs successfully confirmed the dolphin among the 16 dolphins that were visually examined on their ventral surfaces for sex determination.



Fig. 1. Lateral view of the striped dolphin with fin-shaped hind appendages just after an initial dissection (upper), magnified lateral view (left bottom) and ventral view of the appendages (right bottom).

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The dolphin (Taiji Whale Museum serial specimen ID 230105) was a male, 182 cm long; sex was confirmed by the external shape of genitalia. The hind appendages arose obliquely at both front sides of the anus slit and were ventrally located about 56 cm (left side, 30.8% of body length) anterior to the notch of the tail flukes (Fig. 1). They were of similar size and shape, 4.3 cm (left side) to 5.8 cm (right side) in straight length, with the right one being slightly larger. The shape was similar to that of the pectoral flippers but more sticklike exterior (Fig. 1; left bottom). The ventral aspect of the left side appendage was the same color as the dorsal appearance of the left side fin, while coloration of the right-side one was a lighter shade of gray. Also, we note the white line surrounding the base of both hind appendages, like in the previous animal having such appendages documented in Ohsumi and Kato (2008). Further details will be followed in later reports.

Body trunk parts including the hind appendages are kept in lab freezer conditions, and lots of tissue samples, including blood and serum samples are kept frozen and fixed in formalin or ethanol solutions. These are expected to be used in future studies.

References

- Ohsumi, S. and Kato, H. 2008. A bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) with fin-shaped hind appendages. *Mar. Mamm. Sci.* 24(3): 743–745. doi: 10.1111/j.1748-7692.2008.00202.x.