

SOME OBSERVATIONS ON MARINE TURTLES LANDED ALONG MAHARASHTRA COAST *

There have been instances of landing of marine turtles along the Maharashtra coast. The landing of three out of the five species of turtles found in the Indian seas is reported here. Of these species, the leathery or leatherback turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*) locally known as 'Kuruma kasav' (Fig. 1) is the rarest and the largest while the other two namely olive ridley



Fig. 1. Latero-dorsal view of the leatherback turtle, washed ashore at Devbag (Near Malwan), Maharashtra coast.

(*Lepidochelys olivacea*) (Fig. 2) and green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) locally known as 'Kasav' and 'Hirwa



Fig. 2. Dorso-lateral view of olive ridley landed at Vasai, Thane District.

kasav' respectively are relatively common. All were taken as incidental catches in the fishing net. The following are the salient measurements and other details of the turtles landed at different places along the Maharashtra coast during 1984-'85 period (Table 1).

Table 1. Catch particulars and morphometric data of marine turtles landed along Maharashtra coast

Particulars	Leathery turtle		Olive ridley		Green turtle	
	Dev Bag (Sindudung Dist.)	New Ferry Wharf (Greater Bombay)	Vasai (Thane Dist.)	Pawas (Ratnagiri Dist.)	Vasai (Thane Dist.)	
Date of landing	5-4-1985	1-4-1984	18-9-1984	30-12-1985	19-4-1984	
Type of gear	Bottom set gill net	Trawl net	Bag net	Trawl net	Bag net	
Type of craft	...	Trawler	Mechanised 'dol' netter	Trawler	Mechanised 'dol' netter	
Depth of fishing (m)	...	35	42	36	35	
Length of carapace (cm)	149.8	63.0	75.0	51.2	66.5	
Width of carapace (cm)	109.0	60.0	59.0	44.0	56.8	
Length of plastron (cm)	142.5	50.5	52.0	...	51.2	
Width of plastron (cm)	72.5	48.0	49.1	...	47.2	
Width of head (cm)	28.9	
Length of anterior flipper (cm)	105.2	
Length of posterior flipper (cm)	72.1	
Sex	Male	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Total weight (kg)	100.0	48.0	54.5	38.0	42.8	

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