

ON TWO SPECIES OF MARINE TURTLES CAUGHT OFF DHANUSHKODI, GULF OF MANNAR*

A female leatherback turtle *Dermochelys coriacea* (Fig. 1) was captured on 14-2-89, at 0400 hrs in a trawl net operated from a 10 m long mechanised boat, 30 km southeast of Pamban opposite to Dhanushkodi at about 13 m depth. It was brought to the



Fig. 1. The leatherback turtle landed at Pamban on 14-2-1989

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Therkuvadi landing centre in dead condition. While observing the leatherback turtle, an Olive Ridley *Lepidochelys olivacea* (Fig. 2) was also landed by a trawl boat. (Fig. 3). The morphometric measurements (in cm) of the two turtles are given below.



Fig. 2. The Olive Ridley turtle landed at Pamban on 14-2-1989.

Body characters	Leather-back turtle	Olive Ridley
Carapace length	162	67
Carapace width	86	56
Head length	47	—
Plastron length	150	51
Plastron width	87	48.5

Body Characters	Leather-back turtle	Olive Ridley
Anterior flipper length	102	38
Posterior flipper length	56	—
No. of spines in the anterior flipper		1
Weight in kg	300	—
Sex	Female	—

