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## ON A LEATHERBACK TURTLE CAUGHT FROM PALK BAY, OFF MANDAPAM\*

On 3-7-1988, one live leatherback turtle *Dermochelys coriacea*, popularly known as 'Eluvarai aamai' or 'Dhoni aamai' in Tamil, got entangled in gill net ('Choodai valai') operated by one of the channelised indigenous boats in the fishing ground, 12 km northwest of Mandapam in the Palk Bay, was brought ashore at the Mandapam fish landing centre near the fish farm of the Regional Centre. The depth of the fishing ground where the gill net was operated, was about 12 m.

It was a male specimen, measuring 152 cm carapace length. The other morphometric measurements of the specimen are given in Table 1. As could be seen from the table, the specimen on hand appears to be relatively

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\* Reported by P. Vedavyasa Rao, A.A. Jayaprakash and M. Ramamoorthy, Mandapam Regional Centre of CMFRI, Mandapam Camp.

narrow bodied compared to the female specimens reported earlier.

**Table 1.** *The morphometric measurements (in cm) of the Leatherback turtle*

Year reported	1988
Carapace length	152
Carapace width	81
Plastron length	144.5
Plastron width	83
Length of anterior flipper	96
Length of posterior flipper	58
Weight (kg)	260 (estimated)
Sex	Male

