

***Sousa chinensis*** (Osbeck, 1765)

DELPH Sou 1

DHI

**FAO Names:** **En** - Indo-Pacific hump-backed dolphin; **Fr** - Dauphin à bosse de l'Indo-Pacifique; **Sp** - Delfín jorobado del Pacífico.

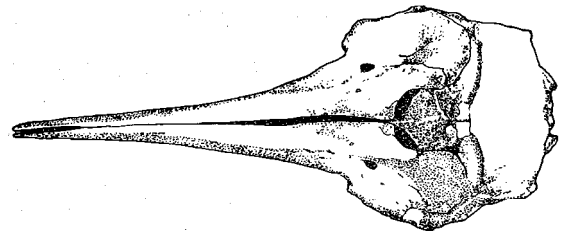


Fig. 295 *Sousa chinensis*

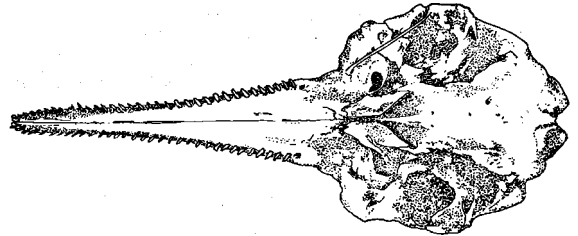
**Distinctive Characteristics:** Dolphins of this highly variable species are characterized by a robust body with a long, well-defined beak. In most populations (especially those off southern Africa), the dorsal fin sits on a hump, or ridge, in the middle of the animal's back. In others the ridge appears to be absent, or less well-developed. In most areas, there also appear to be well-developed ridges on the tail stock. Males are larger and have more exaggerated ridges on the back and tail stock.

The colour pattern varies with age and area. In most regions, light coloured calves darken with age to become dark lead grey above and light grey below. However, off Malaysia and northern Australia calves and adults are nearly white. In the western Indian Ocean and off China dark calves lighten with age. In the latter case, adults are pinkish white with spots and blotches.

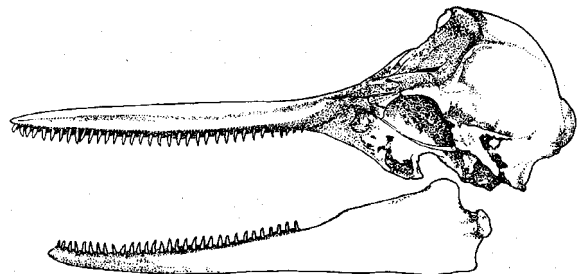
There are 29 to 38 teeth in each tooth row.



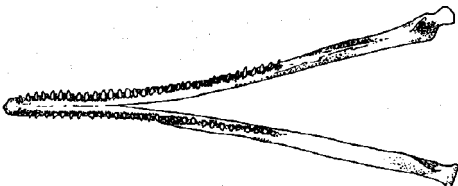
DORSAL VIEW



VENTRAL VIEW



LATERAL VIEW



DORSAL VIEW OF MANDIBLE

Fig. 296 Skull

**Can be confused with:** Hump-backed dolphins are most likely to be confused with bottlenose dolphins (p. 154). Differences in dorsal-fin shape (including presence of the hump on many hump-backed dolphins), head shape, and colour can be used to distinguish between the 2. Also, humpbacks tend to surface differently, pausing at the top of their roll.

**Size:** Maximum known body sizes are 3.2 m (males) and 2.5 m (females). Weights of up to 284 kg have been recorded. Newborns appear to be around 1 m in length.

**Geographical Distribution:** Indo-Pacific hump-backed dolphins are found from northern Australia and southern China in the east, through Indonesia, and around the coastal rim of the Indian Ocean to southern Africa. They are inhabitants of tropical to warm temperate coastal waters and they enter rivers, estuaries, and mangroves.

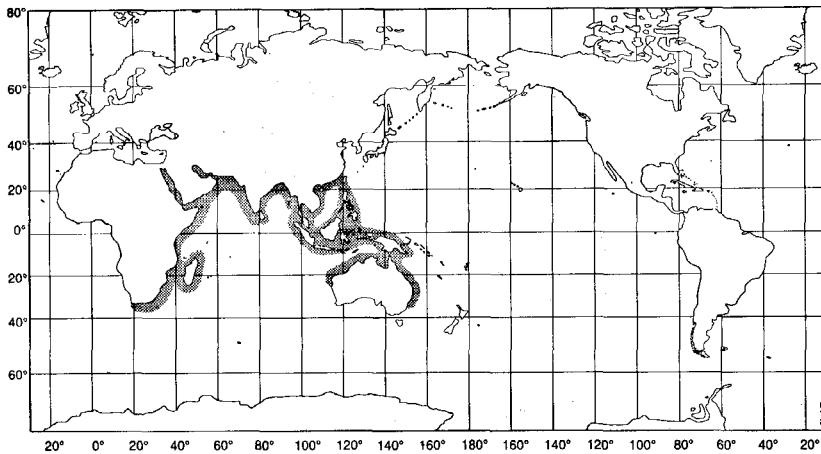


Fig. 297

**Biology and Behaviour:** Groups tend to contain fewer than 10 individuals, though some contain up to 30. Group structure has been studied using photo-identification techniques and off South Africa, some herds are stable. Also, off South Africa, where these dolphins have been most thoroughly studied, groups preferentially use sandy bays for resting and socializing, and open rocky coastline for foraging. Herds often patrol slowly parallel to shore. They are moderately acrobatic, but do not often bowride.

Mating and calving occur all year, at least in South Africa, but there appears to be a calving peak in summer.

Feeding is primarily on nearshore, estuarine, and reef fish.

**Exploitation:** In the northwest Indian Ocean, at least, some direct catches for human consumption and for oil are known. Incidental captures in fishing nets are known or suspected throughout the range. Catches occur in antishark gillnets off southeast Africa and off eastern Australia. Mortality off South Africa has been implicated as a population threat there. Mangrove habitat degradation may also present a threat to this species.

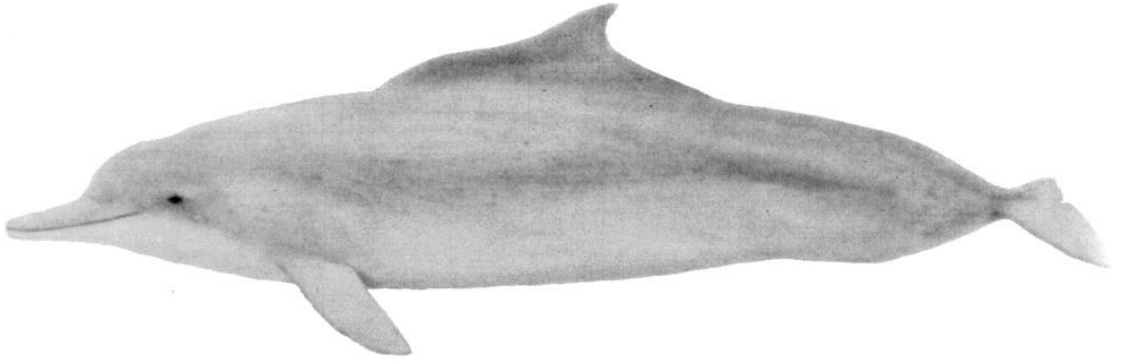
**IUCN Status:** Insufficiently known.

***Sousa teuszii*** (Kükenthal, 1892)

DELPH Sou 2

DHA

**FAO Names:** **En** - Atlantic hump-backed dolphin; **Fr** -Dauphin à bosse de l'Atlantique; **Sp** - Delfin jorobado del Atlantico.

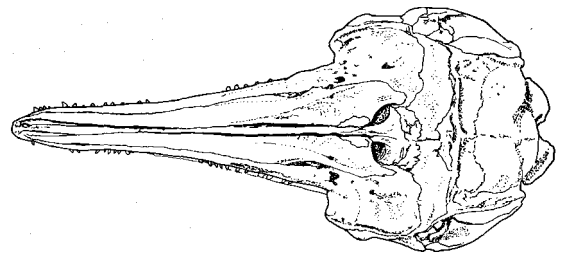


**Fig. 298** *Sousa teuszii*

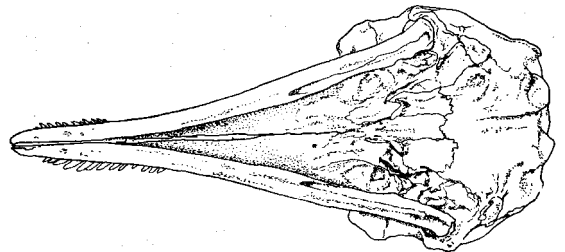
**Distinctive Characteristics:** Atlantic hump-backed dolphins have a long, distinct beak, broad flippers with rounded tips, and a moderately deepened tail stock. The dorsal fin is variable in shape, but generally emerges from a wide hump or ridge on the animal's back. Although this species is poorly known, it is probably sexually dimorphic, like the Indo-Pacific hump-backed dolphin.

Coloration is also variable. Animals are slate grey on the sides and back, and light grey below.

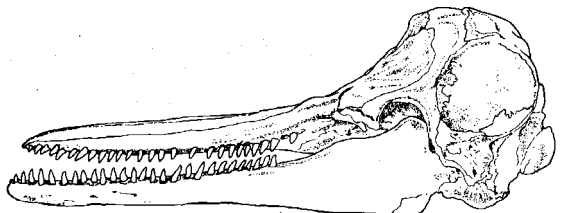
Tooth counts are 27 to 31 per upper tooth row, and 26 to 30 per lower row.



DORSAL VIEW WITH MANDIBLE



VENTRAL VIEW WITH MANDIBLE



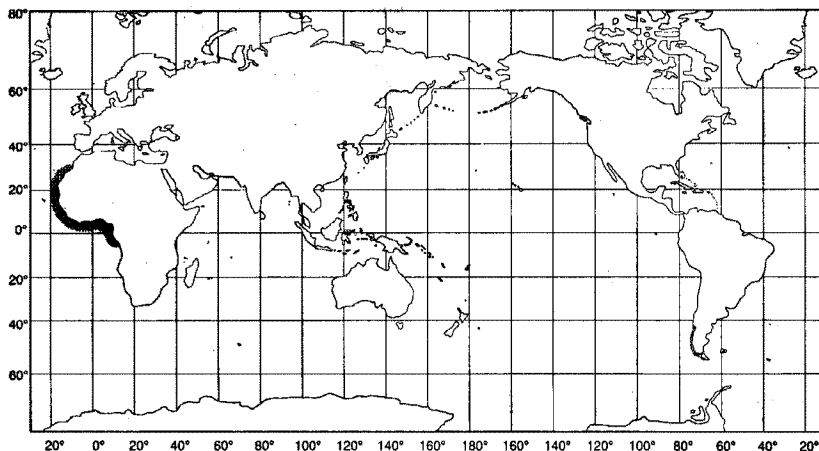
LATERAL VIEW

**Fig. 299** Skull

**Can be confused with:** The bottlenose dolphin (p. 154) also inhabits the inshore range of the Atlantic hump-backed dolphin. The 2 can be distinguished by differences in beak length, dorsal-fin shape (including the hump), and coloration.

**Size:** Adults are up to about 2.8 m in length, and weigh up to 284 kg. Length at birth is thought to be about 1 m.

**Geographical Distribution:** Atlantic hump-backed dolphins occur off tropical to subtropical West Africa, from Mauritania south to at least Cameroon, possibly to northern Angola. They are found primarily in estuarine and coastal waters. Some hump-backed dolphins inhabit rivers, such as the Niger, but it is not known if there are separate freshwater populations.



**Fig. 300**

**Biology and Behaviour:** Groups generally contain 5 to 7 individuals, occasionally up to 25 animals. Groups often feed very near shore. These animals generally do not bowride.

Breeding has been documented in March and April, but the breeding season may be more protracted.

Hump-backed dolphins feed on schooling fishes and, contrary to some descriptions, probably do not eat vegetable matter. Off the coast of Mauritania, fishermen using beach seines cooperate with Atlantic hump-backed and bottlenose dolphins to capture mullet.

**Exploitation:** Hump-backed dolphins are taken in beach seines and shark nets in Senegal. There is apparently also some direct capture of small cetaceans in West Africa for human consumption. Also of concern are the effects of offshore foreign fishing and mangrove destruction.

**IUCN Status:** Insufficiently known.

***Steno bredanensis*** (Lesson, 1828)

DELPH Steno 1

RTD

FAO Names: En - Rough-toothed dolphin; Fr - Sténo; Sp - Esteno.

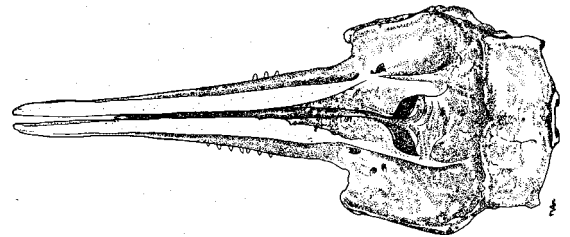


Fig. 301 *Steno bredanensis*

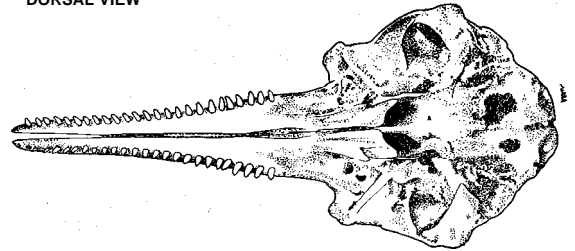
**Distinctive Characteristics:** The rough-toothed dolphin is relatively robust, with a conical head and no demarcation between the melon and the snout. It has a somewhat reptilian appearance. This species has large flippers (seemingly oversized for the animal) that are set far back on the side, and a prominent falcate dorsal fin.

The body is dark grey, with a prominent narrow dorsal cape that dips slightly down onto the side below the dorsal fin. The belly, lips, and much of the lower jaw are white, often with a pinkish cast. White scratches and spots, apparently mostly caused by bites of cookie-cutter sharks and probably other rough-toothed dolphins, often cover much of the body.

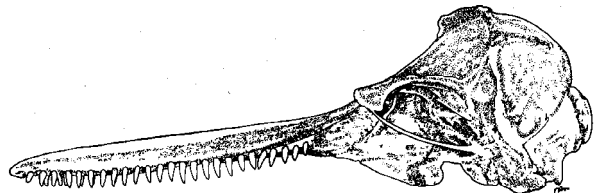
The 20 to 27 teeth in each row have subtle, but detectable, vertical wrinkles or ridges. These ridges give rise to the species' English common name.



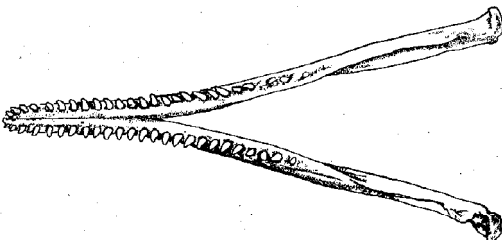
DORSAL VIEW



VENTRAL VIEW



LATERAL VIEW



DORSAL VIEW OF MANDIBLE

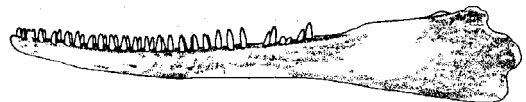
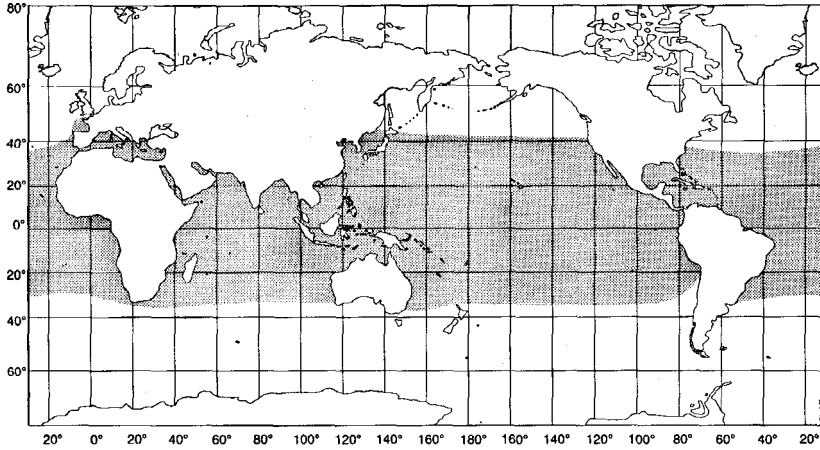


Fig. 302 Skull

**Can be confused with:** Rough-toothed dolphins are generally easy to identify when seen at close range; however, they may be mistaken for bottlenose dolphins (p. 154) if seen at a distance. The narrow cape and cone-shaped head are the best clues for identifying rough-toothed dolphins.

**Size:** Adults are up to about 2.8 m long. They are known to reach weights of up to 150 kg. Length at birth is unknown.

**Geographical Distribution:** The rough-toothed dolphin is a tropical to subtropical species, which inhabits deep oceanic waters, rarely ranging north of 40°N or south of 35°S.



**Fig. 303**

**Biology and Behaviour:** Rough-toothed dolphins have been seen most commonly in groups of 10 to 20, although herds of over 100 have been reported. They are often lethargic and individuals bowride occasionally. They often move at high speed with the chin and head above the surface, in a distinctive skimming behaviour described as “surfing.” In the eastern tropical Pacific, they tend to associate with floating objects and sometimes with other cetaceans.

Rough-toothed dolphins feed on cephalopods and fish, including large fish such as mahi mahi (also called dorado or dolphinfish).

**Exploitation:** Rough-toothed dolphins are sometimes taken incidentally in purse seines in the eastern tropical Pacific, and in small numbers in directed fisheries in Japan, the Lesser Antilles, and Sri Lanka. A few have been captured live for public display.

**IUCN Status:** Insufficiently known.