

GIANT FISHES, WHALES AND DOLPHINS

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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	xvii
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PART I: FISHES.

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. SHARKS	I
II. SHARKS (<i>continued</i>)	27
III. RAYS	56
IV. SOFT-RAYED BONY FISHES	86
V. PERCH-LIKE FISHES	114
VI. PERCH-LIKE FISHES (<i>continued</i>)	141
VII. BARRACUDAS, REMORAS AND OTHERS	169
VIII. KEY TO THE PRINCIPAL FISHES DESCRIBED IN THIS BOOK	188

PART II: CETACEANS.

IX. RIGHT WHALES	203
X. RORQUALS OR FIN WHALES	218
XI. HUMPBACK WHALE ; CALIFORNIAN GREY WHALE	242
XII. SPERM WHALES AND BOTTLE-NOSED OR BEAKED WHALES	256
XIII. PORPOISES AND DOLPHINS	283
XIV. PORPOISES AND DOLPHINS (<i>continued</i>)	306
XV. FRESH-WATER DOLPHINS	338
XVI. KEY TO THE PRINCIPAL CETACEANS DESCRIBED IN THE BOOK	344
INDEX	350

ILLUSTRATIONS

FIG.	PAGE
1. Topography of a Fish	xix
2. Topography of a Cetacean	xx
3. Flipper of a Sperm Whale	xx
4. Skull of a Whalebone Whale (Californian Grey Whale)	xxiii
5. Skull of a Toothed Whale (False Killer Whale)	xxiii
6. Respiratory Organs in a Shark and a Bony Fish	xxiv
7. Six-gilled Shark or Griset (<i>Hexanchus griseus</i>)	6
8. Seven-gilled Shark or Perlon (<i>Hepttranchias perlo</i>)	6
9. Sand Shark or Slender-toothed Shark (<i>Odontaspis taurus</i>)	6
10. Elfin or Goblin Shark (<i>Scapanorhynchus owstoni</i>)	11
11. Common Porbeagle (<i>Lamna cornubica</i>)	11
12. Mediterranean Mackerel Shark (<i>Lamna oxyrhynchus</i>)	11
13. Great White Shark or Man-eater (<i>Carcharodon rondeleti</i>)	19
14. Basking Shark (<i>Cetorhinus maximus</i>)	19
15. Thresher or Fox Shark (<i>Alopias vulpes</i>)	19
16. Common Nurse Shark or Gata (<i>Ginglymostoma cirratum</i>)	32
17. Wobbegong or Carpet Shark (<i>Orectolobus barbatulus</i>)	32
18. Zebra Shark (<i>Stegostoma tigrinum</i>)	32
19. Great Blue Shark (<i>Carcharimus glaucus</i>)	41
20. Tiger Shark (<i>Galeocerdo arcticus</i>)	41
21. Hammer-head Shark (<i>Sphyrna zygaena</i>)	41
22. Greenland or Sleeper Shark (<i>Somniosus microcephalus</i>)	52
23. Bramble or Spinous Shark (<i>Echinorhinus spinosus</i>)	52
24. Monk-fish or Angel-fish (<i>Squatina squatina</i>)	52
25. Ulavi or Plough-headed Ray (<i>Rhynchobatis djiddensis</i>)	61
26. Common Saw-fish (<i>Pristis pectinatus</i>)	61
27. Mediterranean Torpedo (<i>Torpedo marmoratus</i>)	61
28. Common Skate (<i>Raja batis</i>)	73
29a. Stingaree or Clam-cracker (<i>Trygon centrurus</i>)	73
29b. Common Eagle Ray (<i>Myliobatis aquila</i>)	73
30. Cow-nose Ray (<i>Rhinoptera quadriloba</i>)	80
31. Manta or Greater Devil-fish (<i>Manta birostris</i>)	82
32. Mobular (<i>Mobula mobular</i>)	82
33. Common Sturgeon (<i>Acipenser sturio</i>)	94
34. Tarpon (<i>Megalops atlanticus</i>)	94
35. Common Conger (<i>Conger conger</i>)	94
36. Common Gar-fish (<i>Belone belone</i>)	103

FIG.	PAGE
37. How a Flying-fish flies	105
38. Northern Deal-fish (<i>Trachypterus arcticus</i>)	110
39. Common Stone Bass or Wreck-fish (<i>Polyprion americanus</i>)	118
40. California Jew-fish (<i>Stereolepis gigas</i>)	118
41. New Zealand Yellow-tail (<i>Seriola grandis</i>)	118
42. Leer-fish (<i>Lichia amia</i>)	130
43. Meagre or Kabeljau (<i>Sciæna hololepidota</i>)	130
44. Common Escolar or Oil-fish (<i>Ruettius pretiosus</i>)	130
45. Snoek (<i>Thyrssites atun</i>)	139
46. Scabbard-fish (<i>Lepidotus caudatus</i>)	139
47. Black Scabbard-fish (<i>Aphanopus carbo</i>)	139
48. Common Tunny (<i>Thunnus thynnus</i>)	149
49. Atlantic Albacore (<i>Germo alalunga</i>)	149
50. Atlantic Yellow-finned Tuna (<i>Neothynnus argentivittatus</i>)	149
51. Peto or Wahoo (<i>Acanthocybium solandri</i>)	155
52. Louvar (<i>Luarus imperialis</i>)	155
53. Black-finned Barracuda (<i>Sphyræna commersoni</i>)	155
54. Striped Marlin (<i>Tetrapturus mitsukurii</i>)	163
55. American Sail-fish (<i>Istiophorus americanus</i>)	163
56. Sword-fish or Broadbill (<i>Xiphias gladius</i>)	163
57. Shark-sucker (<i>Echeneis naucrates</i>)	175
58. Common Sun-fish (<i>Mola mola</i>)	175
59. Teeth of Sharks and Rays	189
60. Greenland Right Whale (<i>Balæna mysticetus</i>)	212
61. Black Right Whale (<i>Balæna glacialis</i>)	212
62. Skeleton of Pigmy Right Whale (<i>Neobalæna marginata</i>)	212
63. Finner Whale or Common Rorqual (<i>Balænoptera physalus</i>)	229
64. Sei Whale or Rudolphi's Rorqual (<i>Balænoptera borealis</i>). (After Andrews)	229
65. Piked Whale or Lesser Rorqual (<i>Balænoptera acutorostrata</i>)	229
66. Californian Grey Whale (<i>Rhachianectes glaucus</i>)	258
67. Sperm Whale (<i>Physeter catodon</i>)	258
68. Pigmy Sperm Whale (<i>Kogia breviceps</i>)	258
69. Bottle-nosed Whale (<i>Hyperoodon rostratus</i>)	271
70. Cuvier's Beaked Whale (<i>Ziphius cavirostris</i>)	271
71. Sowerby's Whale (<i>Mesoplodon bidens</i>)	271
72. Lower jaw of <i>Berardius</i>	274
73. Skull and lower jaws of species of <i>Mesoplodon</i>	279
74. Killer Whale (<i>Orcinus orca</i>)	295
75. False Killer (<i>Pseudorca crassidens</i>)	295
76. Irawadi Dolphin (<i>Orcella brevirostris</i>)	295
77. Pilot Whale (<i>Globicephala melæna</i>)	309
78. Burmeister's Porpoise (<i>Phocæna spinipinnis</i>)	309
79. True's Porpoise (<i>Phocænoides truei</i>)	309
80. Spectacled Porpoise (<i>Phocæna dioptrica</i>)	313
81. Finless Black Porpoise (<i>Neomeris phocænoides</i>)	313
82. Right Whale Dolphin (<i>Lissodelphis peronii</i>). (After Gray)	313

FIG.	PAGE
83. Heaviside's Dolphin (<i>Cephalorhynchus heavisidei</i>)	317
84. Hector's Dolphin (<i>Cephalorhynchus hectori</i>). (After Van Beneden)	317
85. Commerson's Dolphin (<i>Cephalorhynchus commersonii</i>)	317
86. White-sided Dolphin (<i>Lagenorhynchus acutus</i>)	323
87. <i>Lagenorhynchus cruciger</i>	323
88. Fitzroy's Dolphin (<i>Lagenorhynchus fitzroyi</i>). (After Water- house)	323
89. Dusky Dolphin (<i>Lagenorhynchus obscurus</i>). (After Lillie)	325
90. Bottle-nosed Dolphin (<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>)	325
91. Rough-toothed Dolphin (<i>Steno rostratus</i>)	325
92. <i>Prodelphinus euphrosyne</i> . (After Pucheran)	335
93. Gadamu (<i>Sotalia gadamu</i>)	335
94. Skulls of Common Porpoise and Common Dolphin	335
95. Gangetic Dolphin (<i>Platanista gangetica</i>)	340
96. Amazonian Dolphin (<i>Inia geoffrensis</i>)	340
97. La Plata Dolphin (<i>Pontoporia blainvillei</i>)	340

COLOURED PLATES

PLATE I	FRONTISPIECE
A. Opah or Moon-fish (<i>Lampris luna</i>).	
B. Oar-fish (<i>Regalecus glesne</i>).	
	PAGE
PLATE II	30
A. Whale Shark (<i>Rhineodon typus</i>).	
B. Black-finned or Black Shark (<i>Carcharinus melanopterus</i>).	
C. Spotted Eagle Ray (<i>Aëtobatus narinari</i>).	
PLATE III	100
A. Sierra or Pintado (<i>Scomberomorus regalis</i>).	
B. Pilot-fish (<i>Naucrates ductor</i>).	
C. Black Grouper (<i>Epinephelus nigritus</i>).	
D. Green or Black Moray (<i>Lycodontis funebris</i>).	
PLATE IV	128
A. Two-winged Flying-fish (<i>Exocætus volitans</i>).	
B. Four-winged Flying-fish (<i>Cypsilurus lineatus</i>).	
C. Dolphin (<i>Coryphæna hippurus</i>).	
PLATE V	182
A. Hammer-head Shark (<i>Sphyrna zygaena</i>).	
B. Tailed Sun-fish (<i>Mola lanceolata</i>).	
C. Halibut (<i>Hippoglossus hippoglossus</i>).	
D. Tope (<i>Eugaleus galeus</i>).	
PLATE VI	220
A. Blue Whale (<i>Balænoptera musculus</i>).	
B. Humpback Whale (<i>Megaptera nodosa</i>).	
PLATE VII	284
A. Risso's Dolphin (<i>Grampus griseus</i>).	
B. White Whale (<i>Delphinapterus leucas</i>).	
C. Narwhal (<i>Monodon monoceros</i>).	
D. Chinese River Dolphin (<i>Lipotes vexillifer</i>).	
PLATE VIII	310
A. Common Porpoise (<i>Phocæna phocæna</i>).	
B. Commerson's Dolphin (<i>Cephalorhynchus commersonii</i>).	
C. White-beaked Dolphin (<i>Lagenorhynchus albirostris</i>).	
D. Common Dolphin (<i>Delphinus delphis</i>).	

We heard excited stories of hundreds of dolphins, of many minke whales, and of half a dozen humpbacks, a whale sometimes described as the "giant panda of the sea" because of its charismatic appearance. Surely this run of luck couldn't last? "We've got some travelling to do," our captain, Colin Barnes, told us as we came aboard. Meanwhile, gannets plunged like brilliant white javelins among the fishing dolphins. You don't have to go to the Serengeti to stand in the midst of abundant wildlife. Why, though, many of us wondered, did so many dolphins spend so much time and energy bow-riding? Barnes is convinced that this behaviour is "pure play". "They are such sophisticated and effective hunters that they have lots of time to spend their energy any way they like." Whales and dolphins. Whale songs, beaching, endangered status -- current research news on all cetaceans. Study Finds High Levels of Toxic Pollutants in Stranded Dolphins and Whales. Aug. 6, 2020 " Researchers examined toxins in tissue concentrations and pathology data from 83 stranded dolphins and whales from 2012 to 2018. They looked at 11 different animal species to test for 17 different ... Dolphin Calf Entangled in Fishing Line Only Lived Two Years Following Rescue. Aug. 4, 2020 " Researchers examined the outcome of an entangled bottlenose dolphin calf with monofilament fishing line wrapped tightly around its upper jaw. It was Underwater Robots Reveal Daily Habits of Endangered Whales. Some scientists say the noises from air guns, ship sonar and general tanker traffic can cause the gradual or even outright death of sea creatures, from the giants to the tiniest " whales, dolphins, fish, squid, octopuses and even plankton. Other effects include impairing animals' hearing, brain hemorrhaging and the drowning out of communication sounds important for survival, experts say.