# OSTEOLOGICAL NOTE OF A SPERM WHALE

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Material used in this report is a skeleton of male sperm whale measuring 46 feet in body length, which was collected in request of Staatl. Museum für Naturkunde, Stuttgart, West Germany. The measurements were made soon after cleaning of the skeleton in order to obtain the measurements which do not differ greatly from fresh condition as far as possible. We believe that these measurements may be useful in mounting the skeleton at the Museum. Further we think that it is of some value to publish them, since measurements of the whole skeleton of sperm whale from the coast of Japan have never been reported before.

This sperm whale was caught on 29 August 1960 at 37°17′N, 145°04′E by one of the whaling vessel of Nippon Kinkai Hogei Co. Ltd. and was dissected on the following day. It is very regrettable that no external body proportions were measured owing to some difficulties during the dissecting process. Soon afteer dissection the skeleton was buried in the sand of Kugunari Beach, Ojika Town, and in the case of small bones they were enveloped in a net of chemical fibres in order to prevent from any missing.

The purpose of the present report is only to supply these data and any discussions comparing with others presented by various authors are not included.

The longitudinal section of an upper tooth was made for the age determination and in it 32 laminae were observed.

While measuring this specimen, some interesting or important facts were noted, which are written below.

The skull of sperm whale differs from that of other toothed whales in having a large space which contains spermaceti. We measured it according to the usual way of measurement applied to other species, though it was thought that other items of measurements should be applied to this species. Among the measurements concerning nasal bones some were omitted, because it was rather difficult to distinguish them from other. It is regrettable that nearly all of the maxillary teeth, vestigial teeth, which usually present ten to twenty have been lost during the course of dissection, though they could have been collected without any difficultly and only one has been saved for age determination. All of the mandibular teeth and vertebral bones were collected, and

chevron bones were nearly complete. Damage of skeleton caused by grenade and harpoon is very little.

The body length of male sperm whale at the attainment of physical maturity is thought to be between 52 and 53 ft. Several years, during which growth of several feet is attained, might be necessary for this specimen before the attainment of physical maturity, for the epiphyses of vertebrae are not completely ankylosed to their centra. The epiphyses are so thin that they were easily warped in various degree by drying after digging them out from sand and washing, and do not fit in situ to their centra, which caused some discrepancies in values of the vertebral measurement No. 1 (length of body at center). The ankylosis of vertebral epiphysis to its centrum is only observed in those posterior to the 14th caudal and in the cervical vertebrae.

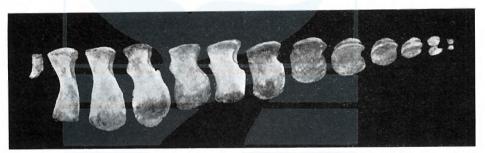


Fig. 1. Chevron bone.

Though all the ribs have been collected, 9th and 10th of left rib were broken by the harpoon. The 11th ribs are so small compared with 10th that one may apprehend that the preceding one was lost in the process of dissection.

The right lamina of the 1st chevron bone has not been collected. We think that possibly it was lost, though a probability that the ossification had not completed yet cannot finally be erased. The shape of the first chevron bone is subject to a considerable sexual difference. In this specimen 13 pairs of chevron bone were collected. But usually there present several more pairs of cartilage in the posterior region.

The hyoid bone is very large and resembles in shape to that of other toothed whales. The dimensions of the hyoid bone are shown in Table 1.

The sternum is very irregular in shape. It may be of some interest to note that the 2nd and 3rd bones seem to show wide individual variation. Sternum is combined with vertebral ribs by means of cartilage. The first rib is connected to sternum at the most anterior joint, 2nd and 3rd at 2nd, and 4th and 5th at 3rd respectively.

The rudimental pelvic bones are slender and in this specimen there is

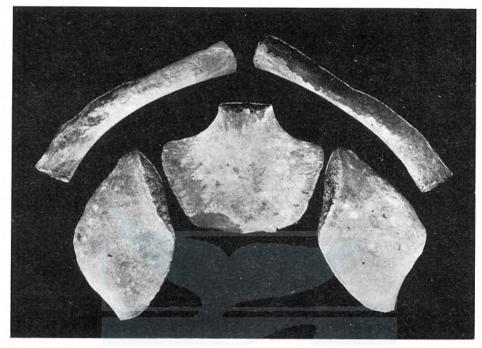
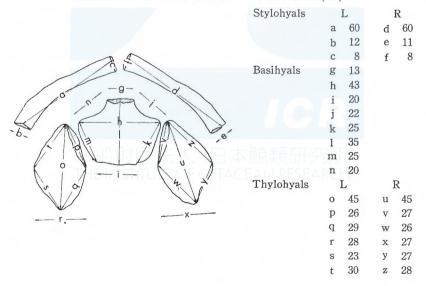


Fig. 2. Hyoid bone.

TABLE 1. DIMENSIONS OF HYOLD BONE (cm)



no bone which represent femur. But in other specimens femur-like bones were found, which ankylosed to pelvic bone or connected to it with joint.

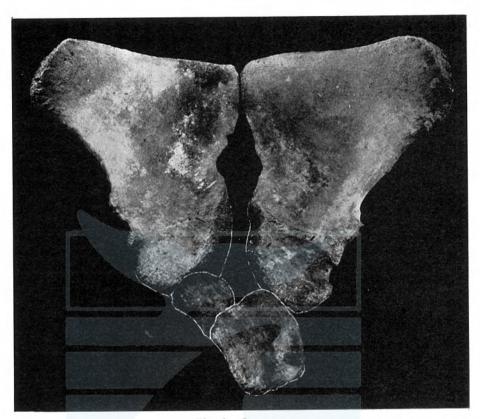
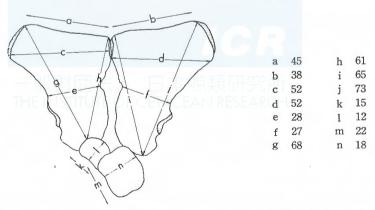


Fig. 3. Sternum.

TABLE 2. DIMENSIONS OF STERUM (cm)



Bones in flipper were collected nearly completely. But ulna, radius and some digits of left flipper were broken by the clashing with the side of the catcher boat during the time of towing the whale to the landstation.

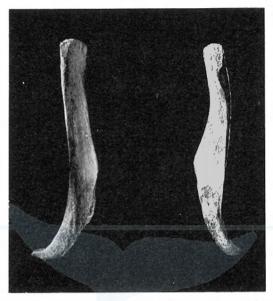
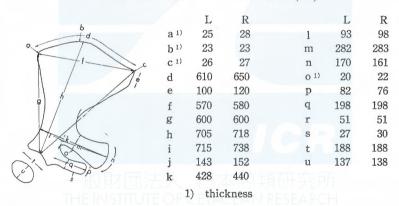


Fig. 4. Pelvic bone.

TABLE 3. DIMENSIONS OF SCAPULA (cm)



We are grateful to Mr. Yoshinori Kimura who kindly helped us in various works, e.g. securing of the fresh skeleton, preparation for sample, and in measuring the skeleton. Sincere thanks are due to the staffs of Nippon Kinkai Hogei Co. Ltd., especially to those who worked at Ayukawa whaling landstation. The sperm whale was caught by the catcher of this company and dissected at the landstation.

TABLE 4. DIMENSIONS OF SKULL (cm)

				_	percentage
		C	m the	to length	to the breadth
1	Total (condylo-basal) length	3	59	100	221.8
-	Length of rostrum (median)		51	69.9	151.3
	Breadth of rostrum at base		23	34.3	74.2
•	Breadth of rostrum at middle		83	23.1	50.0
	Breadth of rostrum between antorbital notches	13	24	34.6	74.7
•	Depth of rostrum at middle	:	21	5.9	12.6
7	Breadth of premaxillae at middle of rostrum	;	37	10.3	22.3
8.	Breadth of premaxillae in front of anterior nares		51	14.2	30.7
9	Greatest breadth of premaxillae opposit anterior nare	es	64	17.9	38.6
10.	Least distance between the postero-dorsal margins of the maxillary foramina	3	89	24.8	53.6
11.	Least distance between the postero-dorsal margins of the premaxillary foramina	5	29	8.1	17.5
12.	Least distance between the maxillary foramina		37	10.3	22.3
	and premaxillary foramina		25	7.0	15.0
•	Greatest breadth of superior nares		33	9.2	19.9
14.	Distance from tip of rostrum to anterior end of vomer		52	14.5	31.3
15.	From the same to anterior margin of superior	L: 2		83.4	174.1
16.	rares From the same to medial suture line of posterior	R: 3	09 77	$86.2 \\ 77.2$	180.1 166.9
	end of pterygoid			11.2	100.9
	From the same to occipito-frontal vertex		98	83.0	173.5
•	From the same to posterior median end of maxillae on palate	2	31	64.4	139.2
•	From the same to most anterior point of the palatines	2	31	64.4	139.2
•	Length of vomer visible on palate		51	42.1	91.0
•	Breadth across middle of orbits		66	46.3	100
22.	Diameter of orbit (antero-posterior)		16 16	$\frac{4.5}{4.5}$	$9.6 \\ 9.6$
23,	Greatest breadth across supra-orbital plates of maxillae		53	42.6	92.2
24.	Greatest breadth across post-orbital processes	16	66	46.3	100
25.	Greatest breadth of cranium at parietal region in	13	20	33.4	72.3
26	Length of temporal fossae		26	7.3	15.7
40,	Length of temporal lossac		27	7.5	16.3
27.	Depth of temporal fossae		25	7.2	15.1
00	D 11 ( 111 11		30	8.4	18.1
	Breadth of occipital condyles Breadth of foramen magnum		51 18	14.2	$30.7 \\ 10.7$
	Length of occipital condyle		31	$\frac{5.0}{8.6}$	18.7
	7		30	8.4	18.1
	Height, vertex to inferior border of pterygoids	12	26	35.1	75.7
32.	Depth of orbit		16	4.5	9.6
33	Length of mandible (median)		16 001)	4.5 83.6	$9.6 \\ 180.7$
	Length of mandibular ramus	L: 30		83.8	181.3
•	_	R: 30	051)	85.0	183.7
35.	Distance from anterior end of mandible to coronoid process	L: 26		75.0	162.0
36	Length of symphysis	R: 27 L: 17		76.6 47.8	165.6 $103.0$
*°	G ai ai whuhan	R: 16		44.8	97.0

TABLE 4. DIMENSIONS OF SKULL (cm) (continued)

		cm	to	percentage to the breadth
37.	Distance from anterior end of mandible to anterior end of alveoli	L: 0 R: 0	0	0
38.	Distance from anterior end of mandible to posterior end of alveoli	L: 185 <sup>1)</sup> R: 189 <sup>1)</sup>	51.6 52.7	111.4 119.9
39.	Depth of mandible at posterior margin of teeth	L: 17 R: 17	4.7 4.7	10.2 $10.2$
40.	Depth of mandible at anterior margin of teeth	L: 7 R: 7	2.0 2.0	$\frac{4.2}{4.2}$
41.	Depth between angle and coronoid process	L: 50 R: 52	13.9 14.9	30.1 31.3
42.	Breadth across mandibular condyles	L: 13 R: 13	3.6 3.6	7.8 7.8
43.	Greatest height of mandible at coronoid process	L: 55 R: 56	15.3 16.2	33.1 33.7
44.	Distance between mandibular condyles	148	41.2	89.2
45.	Distance between ear bones	70	19.5	42.2
46.	Breadth of posterior end of pterygoids	25	7.0	15.0
47.	Breadth of anterior end of pterygoids	46	12.8	27.7
48.	Length of malar bone	L: 54 R: 54	$15.0 \\ 15.0$	$32.5 \\ 32.5$
	1) O am added for defait			

1) 2 cm added for deficit

TABLE 5. DIMENSIONS OF MANDIBULAR TEETH (mm)

Number of teeth <sup>1)</sup>	Length			eter of dentis costerior)	Diameter of cavum dentis (transverse)		
	L	R	Ĺ	R	Ĺ	R	
1st	82	80	21	20	19	17	
2nd	92	93	29	28	27	26	
3rd	100	94	29	29	27	27	
4th	98	97	30	29	28	28	
5th	94	98	31	32	25	27	
6th	92	93	33	35	25	25	
7th	91	96	36	38	24	26	
8th	90	89	38	37	24	24	
9th	93	92	37	41	24	26	
10th	97	93	37	41	25	27	
11th	99	97	39	40	26	27	
12th	95	99	38	41	28	28	
13th	100	94	39	38	27	28	
14th	100	94	36	383)	28	28	
15th	102	88	34	37	27	28	
16th	99	92	31	33	24	26	
17th	89	88	33	30	27	24	
18th	812)	84	25	26	21	21	
19th	782)	83	23	25	18	19	
20th	83	$82^{2}$	23	21	18	15	
21th	602)	75	20	17	14	16	
22th	73	62	22	23	9	8	
23th	67	55	21	19	12	8	
24th	60	_	19	_	8		

from anterior to posterior
 tip broken
 has some deficit, estimated

TABLE 6. DIMENSIONS OF VERTVRAL COLUMN (mm)

						•	
Number of vertebrae	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
C 1st	105	125	158	420	730	241	224
2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th	169	3362)	253	413	750	$ \{ 126^{3)} \\ 98^{4)} $	{192 <sup>8)</sup> {212 <sup>4)</sup>
D 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th	104 113 113 122 127 122 120 129 138 140	248 236 224 222 226 228 235 240 244 251	349 294 257 234 235 230 232 244 256 272	425 446 482 502 516 526 514 558 567 588	548 525 478 450 442 429 397 375 367 491	94 111 122 130 122 132 104 112 114 118	215 202 184 170 189 149 137 125 114
11th	144	265	283	613	640	121	86
$egin{array}{c} L & 1 \mathrm{st} \\ 2 \mathrm{nd} \\ 3 \mathrm{rd} \\ 4 \mathrm{th}^{_{1})} \\ 5 \mathrm{th} \\ 6 \mathrm{th} \\ 7 \mathrm{th} \\ 8 \mathrm{th} \\ \end{array}$	152 160 160 165 172 177 183 195	251 288 313 331 322 315 315 320	275 275 291 280 288 284 278 282	625 655 682 637 632 605 587 574	616 618 622 623 628 625 640 655	126 120 117 119 110 81 88 85	78 66 60 60 60 60 60 63
Ca 1st	203	322	310	588	640	74	58
2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th	204 205 210 212 207 193 188	322 310 311 315 313 309 306	320 332 332 331 327 313 300	595 576 562 542 495 446 420	662 638 562 535 450 379 323	72 76 66 55 45 45 36	58 44 35 32 38 30 28
9th	182	287	268	390	272	29	25
10th 11th	175 143	276 260	252 230	355 303		26 26	18 20
12th	100	232	222	250		_	13
13th	68	173	207	187 147		_	
14th	62 56	$\frac{140}{124}$	176 161	128			_
15th 16th	50 52	105	162	122		_	
17th	50	99	140	110			_
18th	50	79	110	88		_	
<b>1</b> 9th	43	74	90	78	± 5 €	_	
$20 \mathrm{th}$	38	62	84	65	九尸 <del>上</del>		
21th	40	54	68	55 46	ARCH	_	_
22th 23th	36 36	33	46 35	46 33		_	
23tn 24th	36 20	33 18	33 22	33 18		_	_
2Ttl1	20	-0.7	D 11 . T 0	0.04.50			

C7+D11+L8+Ca24=50

- Length of body at center
  Height of body at front end
  Breadth of body at front end
  Total height from anterior bottom
  Breadth of transverse processes
  Greatest height of neural canal
  Greatest breadth of neural canal
- - 1) has some deficit and pathological change at centrum 2) measurment at the posterior end of 7th cervical 3) height at anterior point of the canal 4) height at posterior point of the canal

TABLE 7. DIMENSIONS OF RIB BONE (cm)

Number of rib	Straight length			Curvilinear length <sup>1)</sup>			Breadth at middle	
OI 11D	L	R	Ĺ	length <sup>1)</sup> head middle				
1st	89	89	140	130	20	21	11	12
$2nd^{3)}$	113	115	192	194	20	20	8	8
$3rd^{3}$	127	131	211	218	21	21	7	6
4th <sup>3)</sup>	129	131	221	223	20	20	5	5
5th <sup>3)</sup>	126	128	212	214	19	21	4	5
6th <sup>3)</sup>	123	124	200	200	19	20	5	5
7th <sup>3)</sup>	119	113	184	188	19	19	5	5
8th³)	121	123	171	171	17	17	4	5
9th	115	121	145	155	10	14	4	4
10th	1012)	102	1212)	122	11	12	4	4
11th	28	25	_	_	_	_	_	_

Number of rib	Breadth at distal end			Depth at head		h at dle	Depth at distal end	
01 110	L	R	L	R	L	R	Ĺ	R
1st	28	27	6	6	4	5	8	8
2nd³)	16	15	5	5	5	4	9	9
$3rd^{3)}$	15	13	5	5	5	5	10	10
4th3)	11	10	4	5	5	5	9	9
5th3)	11	12	5	5	5	5	8	7
6th³)	10	10	5	5	4	4	7	7
7th3)	8	8	5	5	4	4	6	7
8th3)	8	8	5	7	4	4	4	5
9th	7	8	6	4	3	4	3	3
10th	$5^{2}$ )	5	6	6	3	3	22)	1
<b>11t</b> h		_	/ -				_	_

- along the lateral border
   has some deficit
   two headed rib

TABLE 8. DIMENSIONS OF CHEVRON BONE (mm)

Number	r of Length (antero-posterior)			Bread	lth (transv	Greatest height		
chevro	on	proximal	middle	distal	proximal	middle	distal	(supero-inferior)
1.	L	57	65	_	38	18	15	131
	$\mathbf{R}^{_{1)}}$		n ====	\ <del>+</del>		<u>- жал</u> по	T ST	_
2.		130	77	141	74	60	43	382
3.		138	101	195	160	47	39	423
4		139	128	182	155	30	35	422
4. 5.		162	137	201	152	46	53	332
6.		162	197	156	152	42	39	311
7.		178	201	168	142	34	34	280
8.		171	190	176	145	34	31	225
8. 9.		153	189	183	137	35	26	183
10		133	_	145	122	26	16	134
11.		118		104	116	27	18	85
12.	L		<b>7</b> 8	_	26	9	11	- 55
•	R	Parent.	79	_	26	9	11	56
13,	L		45	_	14	8	10	26
•	R		46		15	8	10	27
	1)	missed						

TABLE 9. DIMENSIONS OF PECTORAL LIMB BONE (cm)

	Humerus			lius	Ulna	
	L	R	L	R	L	R
Length	40	40	30	30	3011	301)
Breadth at distal end	17	15	19	20	15	15
Breadth at proximal end	19	20	16	17	14	15
Depth at distal end	15	16	8	10	10	10
Depth at proximal end	12	12	5	5	7	7

1) Epiphysis at distal end is lost.

TABLE 10. DIMENSIONS OF CARPARS (mm)

Number		Length		Breadth		Depth		
Carpars		L	R	L	R	Ĺ	R	
1.	4	12	44	51	52	47	41	
2.	5	52	60	66	66	44	43	
3.	4	14	44	56	54	55	48	
4.	5	55	52	62	60	45	43	
5.	E	51	51	62	61	41	38	

TABLE 11. DIMENSIONS OF DIGITS (mm)

							`	,				
			]	[		II		Ш	:	IV	Ţ	V
			L	R	L	R	Ĺ	R	Ĺ	R	Ĺ	R
1st	Length		66	61	115	114	121	1301)	109	1101)	94	92
	D 141	(proximal	45 18	41	65	69	68	68	68	70	50	51
	Breadtl	n {middle {distal	20	19 18	35 73	40 73	31 70	31 68	32 67	66	$\frac{37}{45}$	$\frac{38}{45}$
		(proximal	31	28	65	41	37	35	37	37	32	31
	Depth	middle	16	14	22	22	18	20	19	20	15	15
O 4	T a	(distal	17	13	41	33	32	31	29	28	20	22
Zna	Length	(preximal			91 64	92	96 62	100 <sup>1)</sup> 63	79 55	82 56	53 37	54 39
	Breadtl				36	38	30	30	26	27	27	27
		distal			48	50	47	50	42	41	29	31
	D (1	(proximal			32	34	29	30	27	25	12	31
	Depth	{middle  distal			$\frac{17}{22}$	16 21	16 19	16 15	13 19	14 19	$\frac{10}{12}$	10 13
3rd	Length				68	68	70	691)	58	59	24	28
	J	(proximal			41	42	41	39	35	32	17	19
	Breadth				27	26	19	19	20	20	12	12
		(distal			35 21	33	37 22	37	32	31	$\frac{10}{7}$	10
	Depth	fproximal middle			11	19 11	12	$\frac{22}{12}$	$\frac{17}{14}$	17 9	7 4	5
	Depth	distal			13	13	14	14	10	10	5	9 5 5
4th	Length	•			45	46	45	44	30	32		_
	D 1.1	(proximal			25	43	27	26	20	17		
	Breadth	n {middle  distal			20 22	19 <b>20</b>	$\frac{21}{27}$	$\frac{21}{24}$	13 11	$\frac{15}{12}$		
		(proximal			$\frac{22}{12}$	11	13	13	7	8		
	Depth	middle			6	6	7	12	5	5		
		(distal			6	6	7	8	4	4		
5th	Length				22	22	20	211)				
	Breadth	(proximal middle			15 14	14 13	18 17	$\frac{20}{18}$				
	Dicadti	distal			12	13	14	16				
		(proximal			5	5	7	7				
	Depth	middle			5 3 2	3	3	6				
		(distal			2	2	3	5				
	1) h	as some deficit										

1) has some deficit

#### EXPLANATION ON PLATES

### PLATE I

Lateral view of the skull with mandible attached; anterior and posterior views of the skull; right (upper) and left (lower) side mandibular tooth (anterior teeth are shown in left).

## PATEL II

Lateral, dorsal and ventral views (top to bottom) of the skull.

## PLATE III

Lateral, dorsal and reversed lateral views (top to bottom) of mandible.

## PLATE IV

Lateral views of vertebral column. Cervicals, thoracics, lumbars, caudals 1-7 and caudals 8-24 (top to bottom). Vertebral formula is C7+D11+L8+Ca24=50.

## PLATE V

Lateral, cranial and caudal views of cervical vertebrae. left: lateral views of 1st and from 2nd to 7th cervicals; upper right: cranial (left) and caudal (right) views of 1st cervical; lower right: cranial (left) and caudal (right) views of from 2nd to 7th cervicals (fused).

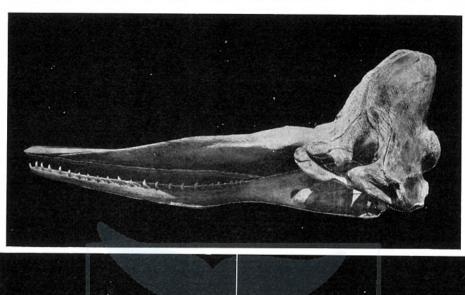
#### PLATE VI

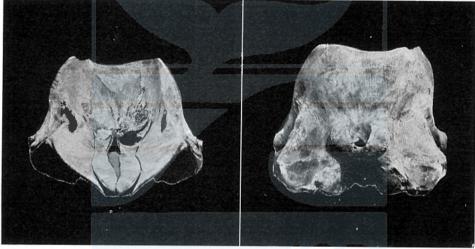
Left and right ribs (top to bottom).

#### PLATE VII

Left and right flipper bones (top to bottom).

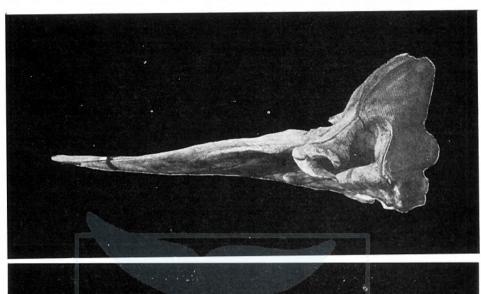
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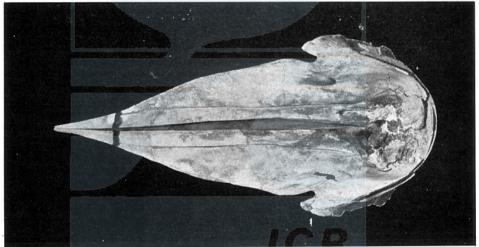


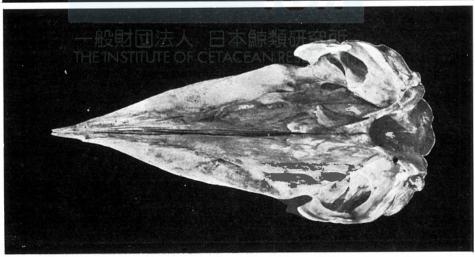




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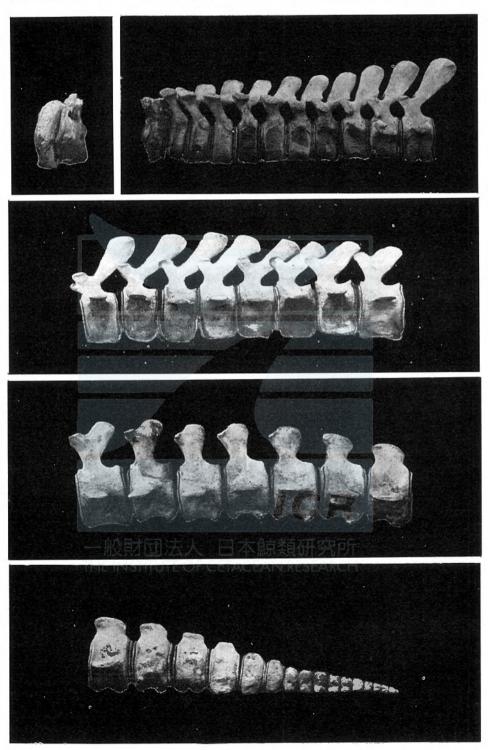




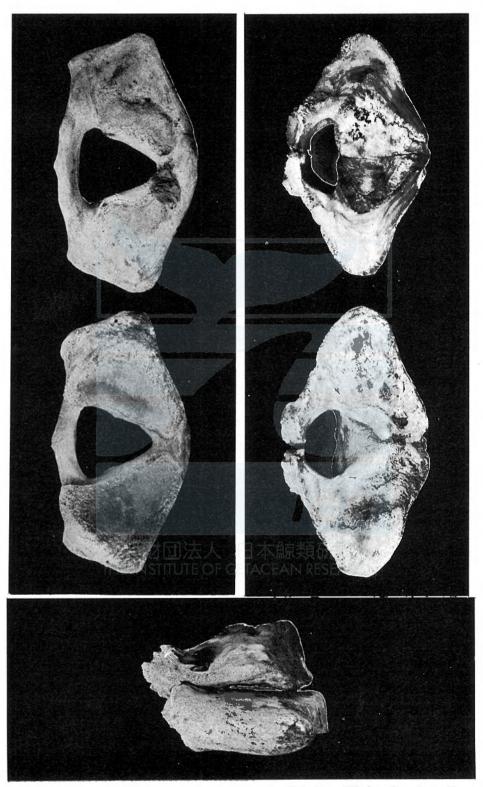
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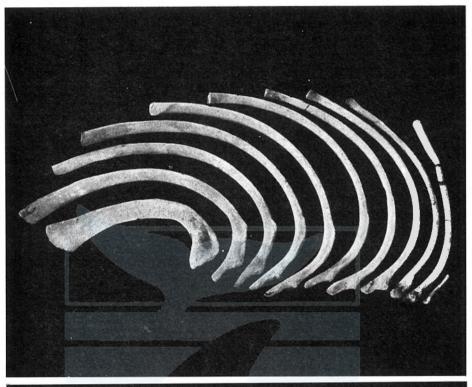
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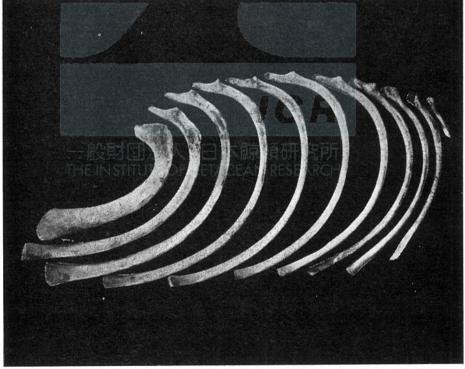


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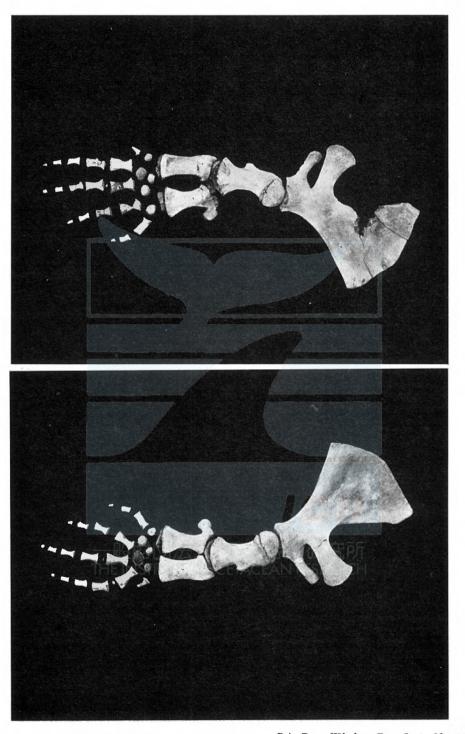


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