

VIGIA
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September'16

NEWSLETTER



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museology

OBJECT OF THE MONTH



Anisakis is a genus of parasitic nematodes, which have life cycles involving fish and marine mammals and that is also infective to Humans. It is one of the most common parasites found on stranded cetaceans, usually burrowed and encysted in the wall of the digestive tract outside the visceral organs, but it can also be found occasionally in muscle or fatty tissues. This specimen was collected from a Atlantic Spotted dolphin (*Stenella frontalis*), male, that stranded at Ribeira da Janela.

Denomination

Anisakis sp.

Inventory Number

MB-SF.97.04

Date of collection

3-12-1997

Localization

Madeira Whale Museum, Caniçal

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history

The Madeira Whale Museum: the past and the present.



Front of the old building.



Front of the new building

The Madeira Whale Museum opened to the public in 1990, approximately a decade after whaling was ended in Madeira. Caniçal's population saw in this museum their people distinguished and their culture appreciated, since the main objective of the exhibition was to keep whaling memory alive. This already extinct activity, still capable to awake some variable emotions but undeniably characterized by his singularity that was, during 40 years, the source of sustenance of many families in Madeira, mostly in Caniçal.

To pay tribute to whalers and study the sperm whale, particularly and cetaceans in general, was the others objectives that were prominent in the origin of this museum.

history

The Madeira Whale Museum: the past and the present.

Throughout the years and in a continuous response to the demands of modernity, these principles have been developed naturally and to them added the promotion of the knowledge produced by the institution. Nowadays, this principles results in the three valences that the museum actuates: Museology/History, Science and Education, present in what is our institution's mission: To preserve the heritage and the historical record of whaling in Madeira, to produce information and spread understanding of cetaceans and the marine environment through an environmentally responsible integrated policy, based on museology, education and scientific research, to contribute to bringing people closer to the sea.



Cetacean's room

The construction of the Madeira Whale Museum new building (opened to the public in 2011) allowed a different approach to the museum's thematics. Permanent exhibitions were divided in two great areas, one related to whaling History in Madeira and the other to the Whales and Dolphins of Madeira.

Besides the obvious innovation of the exhibitions, the new building generated conditions for the application of the museum mission and the consolidation of his valences, allowing a more adequated study of the marine mammals.

Cetacean's study technics : photo-Identification

Individual identification allows a better understanding of parameters like the size of the populations, the migratory routes, the residencies, habitat preferences, life expectancy and the population structure.

The majority of cetaceans shows individual patterns of coloration or unique contours of the dorsal or tail fins, as well as scars that have been accumulated through the years. It's this scars that enable the researchers to distinguish an individual from other.

The photo identification technic – the identification implies taking a photo of the part of the body that is considered unique in the animal, for further comparison. Body parts used for identification are variable according to species, using, for example, the dorsal fin for dolphins and the tail fin for sperm whales. Photo-identification is a widely used technic for the study of cetaceans in the wild since it's a noninvasive technic and with easy application.



Figure 1 a) - Be0009 individual. Photograph taken on 10th August 2006.

Cetacean's study technics: photo-Identification



Figure 1 b) - Be0009 Individual. Photograph taken on 17th January 2008

Figura 1 a) e 1 b) – Photo-identification of the dorsal fin of an Bride's whale (*Balaenoptera edeni*), identified was the Be0009 Individual in the MBM cataloge for the specie at Madeira.

It's possible to assure that it's the same individual of the last photograph, comparing their dorsal fins.

September – New academic year, new educative program!

With September's arrival a new school year begins and, with this, the routines associated to school.

The Madeira Whale Museum, in accordance with this moment, was prepared and made available the activities program for the 2016/2017 school year.



Cover of the new Educational Program for the new school year

The Educative Program is composed by a set of activities that try to bring the educative community closer to the museum but, as well, give answers to some solicitations presented by teachers. This way, it appears as an instrument of communication between the MBM and schools, since it allows the acquaintance of systematical information about the museum's educative activities by the public.

education

September – New academic year, new educative program!

From the proposed activities we highlight the study visits and lectures that this year will be developed according to new themes, and initiatives to support reading and science, like the “School Library” and “its Science day”.



Beside this, it will once again be developed and artistic intervention project and a new educative challenge, named [MAR]mórias. This challenge focus on the recreation of whalers portraits, intending to maintain present the whaling memories, in a project of pedagogic continuity between the MBM and schools.

From the educative program consists, too, partnerships with local schools, formative initiatives for teachers, cleaning of beaches, story hour, children ATL's dinamization and the development of temporary exhibitions.

The educative program can be consulted at: [2016/2017 Educative Program](#)



*“An open door for knowledge, a window to
the sea.”*

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