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NEW STRANDING RECORD OF *ZIPHIUS CAVIROSTRIS* (CUVIER, 1823) (CETACEA: ZIPHIIDAE) AT TRINDADE ISLAND, BRAZIL

NOVO REGISTRO DE ENCALHE DE *ZIPHIUS CAVIROSTRIS* (CUVIER, 1823) (CETACEA: ZIPHIIDAE) NA ILHA DA TRINDADE, BRASIL

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ABSTRACT

A new record of stranding of *Ziphius cavirostris* (Cetacea: Ziphiidae) is reported to the Trindade Island, Brazil. This is the second stranding registered to this island in a period of six years.

KEYWORDS: Brazil; Oceanic Islands; Stranding; *Ziphius cavirostris*

RESUMO

Um novo registro de encalhe de *Ziphius cavirostris* (Cetacea: Ziphiidae) é relatado para a Ilha da Trindade, Brasil. Este encalhe é o segundo registrado para a mesma ilha num período de seis anos.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: Brasil; Ilhas oceânicas; Encalhe; *Ziphius cavirostris*

The Trindade Island, an oceanic island distant about 1200 km from the coast of the city of Vitória (Espírito Santo, Brazil), was uplifted about three million years of the

abyssal zone of the Atlantic by basic and mixed volcanism. It has an area of 9.28 km² and its emerged part reaches 620 m altitude. The ocean depth around the island reaches 5800 m (Figure 1). The island is under the jurisdiction of the Brazilian Navy (1st Naval District) which maintains an Oceanographic Station and a Weather Station at the same (ALVES, 1998).

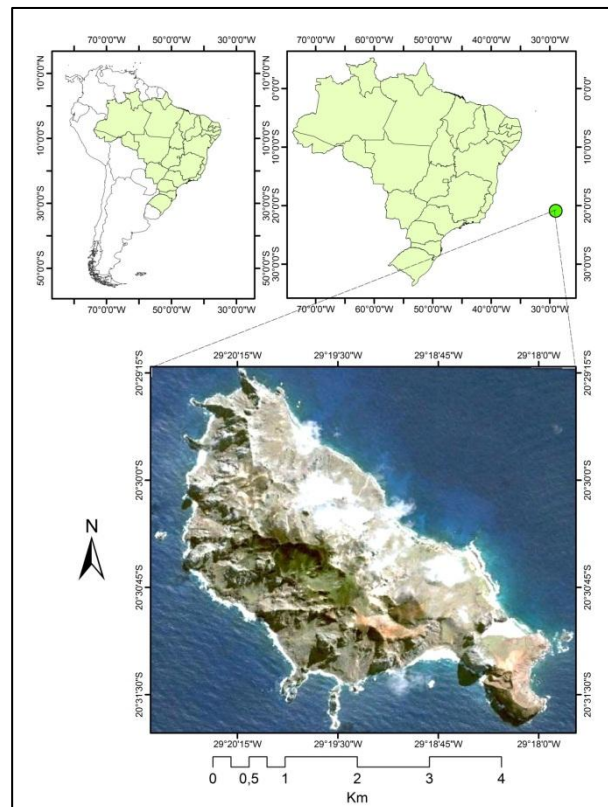


Figure 1: Location of the Trindade Island, Brazil (Image: Google Earth).

The Cuvier's beaked whale (*Ziphius cavirostris*) is known as the most cosmopolitan of family Ziphiidae and is found in deep waters across all oceans and most seas, except the waters of the Arctic and Antarctic (MOORE, 1963; MITCHELL, 1975; DALEBOUT *et al.*, 2005; HEYNING & MEAD, 2009). This distribution is known, almost entirely, from strandings of individuals of the specie (HEYNING, 1989). Like other members of this family, *Z. cavirostris* is usually found in deep water, usually associated with steep canyons and escarpments (HEYNING, 1989; JEFFERSON *et al.*, 2008).

The species is classified in the category of "Least Concern" on the Red List of Threatened Animals (INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF

NATURE, 2012) and in Appendix II of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora).

In Brazil, Pinedo *et al.* (2001) reported the record of 14 strandings *Z. cavirostris* occurred between 1948 and 2000. In addition, Medeiros (2006) describes three other strandings of this species, which occurred in 2001, 2004 and 2005. Mayorga *et al.* (2010) records two strandings, being the first at the Trindade Island in 2007 and the second in the city of Vila Velha (Espírito Santo) in 2009. Finally, Batista *et al.* (2012) cite three strandings occurred on the coast of Ilhéus in 1997, 2000 and 2004.

This paper aims to describe a new stranding of *Ziphius cavirostris* (Cuvier's beaked whale) at the Trindade Island.

The individual whose stranding is reported in this study (Figures 2 and 3) was found on 2 April 2013, at 0900 h, in an advanced state of decomposition, at the Trindade Island, in the place known as "Praia dos Cabritos" (29° 19' 41" W, 20° 29' 43" S). The local of the stranding is distant approximately 1.5 km from the headquarters of the Oceanographic Station of Trindade Island (POIT). The total length of the animal was 6 m, and it was a female. There were no registered others morphometric measurements. The animal was not collected, remaining in the same location as the beach.



Figure 2: *Ziphius cavirostris* stranded on the "Praia dos Cabritos", Trindade Island, Brazil.



Figure 3: Head detail of *Ziphius cavirostris* stranded at "Praia dos Cabritos", Trindade Island, Brazil.

Reports like this are extremely important to the knowledge of the species and their conservation, since the direct observation of these animals in their natural habitat is very difficult and costly. Normally most data are known through opportunistic records or were obtained from unplanned way through strandings, reports of onboard observers or divers, among others.

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