

A SHEPHERD'S BEAKED WHALE, *TASMACETUS SHEPHERDI*,
FROM THE EASTERN SOUTH PACIFIC

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W.R.B. Oliver (1937) described a new genus and species of beaked whale (Family : Ziphiidae) from a carcass found stranded on the coast of North Island (Ohawe, Taranaki), New Zealand. Since the holotype was described only six additional records of this species have been described : five from the New Zealand region and a sixth from Peninsula Valdez, Province of Chubut, Argentina (Mead and Payne, 1975). We report here a new record from the eastern South Pacific.

A cranium, left mandible, and cervical vertebrae were found by Aguayo and Torres just south of Loberia Vieja (see Figure 2 in Aguayo *et al.*, 1971) on the eastern coast (*ca.* 33°46'S, 80°47'W) of Isla Mas Afuera (Alejandro Selkirk Island), Juan Fernandez Archipelago, Chile, 19 February 1970. The specimen was not collected, but was photographed. These photographs are on file at the Division of Mammals, Smithsonian Institution. It was identified as *T. shepherdii* by comparing these photographs with those published by Oliver (1937) and Moore (1968). The photographs also agree with the specimen of *T. shepherdii* in the U.S. National Museum (No. 484878). The characters of the vertex and the numerous alveoli are clear in the photographs and leave no question about the identity of the specimen. The skull length of the new specimen, with part of its rostrum damaged, is estimated at 100 cm. We estimate that the original condylobasal and mandible lengths were 125 cm and 107 cm respectively. This specimen, with no reference, was one of the eight records of *T. shepherdii* recorded in Anonymous (1975 : 897). The Isla Mas Afuera and Peninsula Valdez specimens suggest that *T. shepherdii* may have a circumpolar distribution in the Southern temperate oceans, as do many other species of cetaceans (Brownell, 1974).

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