

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1437	Press Mis.
403 404	
Dated 28-6-1867.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
23th June 1867.*

No. 403. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Public Department:—

Circulating, to Collectors and Officers of the
Medical Department for report, a paper of
questions relating to Gangetic Dolphin and
other Indian Cetacea. } (Here enter 21st June 1867, No. 722.)

No. 404. ORDER THEREON, 28th June 1867, No. 1,437.

Miscellaneous.

Communicated to the Revenue Board.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue, with Proceedings Public Department, No. 722.

Erd S. T. Augustin.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department

21st June 1867.

No. 213. Read the following letter from the Assistant Secretary to the Government of India, in charge of the Home Office, to the Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George ; dated Fort William, 22nd May 1867, No. 50.

Home Department.

I am directed to forward, herewith, 100 copies of a letter, and of the list of questions referred to therein, regarding the distribution of Indian Cetacea, submitted by the Curator of the Indian Museum, and to request that, under the orders of His Excellency the Governor, you will have the goodness to cause the papers to be circulated to all District Officers, and submit their replies to this Department.

From J. ANDERSON, Esq., M. D., Curator, Indian Museum, dated Calcutta, 11th May 1867.

As our knowledge regarding the natural history and distribution of the Gangetic Dolphin, or *Susu*, and of other Cetacea found in the large rivers of India, is deficient, I have drawn out a few questions, with the object of collecting information on these interesting subjects, and I take the liberty to ask your kind co-operation in the inquiry.

2. An answer to any single one of the questions would be gratefully accepted ; and if you can send me perfect skeletons or skulls of the dolphin I shall feel extremely obliged, and shall defray, with pleasure, any expense necessary in procuring them, and in forwarding them to Calcutta.

Questions about the Gangetic Dolphin (Porpoise) and other Indian Cetacea.

1st.—Does a dolphin or porpoise occur in the rivers in your district ; and, if so, by what name is the animal known to the Natives ?

2nd.—Does it occur all the year round, or is its appearance restricted to certain seasons ? If its visits are periodical, state the months of the year in which it is found ?

3rd.—Do they appear in herds, or have you observed any facts to lead you to believe that they go in pairs ?

4th.—Are the animals observed to be local in their habits, remaining in one place after their arrival ?

5th.—If possible, describe the general form of the dolphin ; and, if this cannot be done, state if it has a long snout ?

6th.—Full grown individuals of the Gangetic Dolphin measure from four feet to 6½ feet in length. Have any young ones been observed by you, and do you know of any facts that would lead you to believe that the female gives birth to her young in your district ?

7th.—Is the flesh of the dolphin eaten by any of the Natives, and, if so, mention by what caste or tribe ?

No. 214. ORDER THEREON, 21st June 1867, No. 722.

A copy of the foregoing letter, and of its enclosure, will be sent to the several Collectors, with a request that they will furnish such information as they may be able to obtain on the subject referred to.

2. Copies of the papers will also be sent to the Inspector General, Medical Department, for circulation amongst the Officers of his Department.

(True Extract).

L. J. Cunningham
Chief Secretary.

To the Collector of
Inspector General, Medical Department
Revenue Department
Edw. J. H. Burns.

December 1867. 1144
No. of your House
Proceedings in the
Public Report

Printed 21st June
Dec 24-7 1867.
H-722

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Circulating to all
libraries and officers of the
National Report. For the
a paper of your House, with
any to your the District
other Indian Relations.

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1143 28 June

With order

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Communications
to the Executive
Council

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Copies of the 11437 with 11437 11437