

VERY SMALL EMBRYO OF CETACEA

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On November 6, 1956, 397 blue-white dolphins (*Stenell caeruleo-albus*) (197 males and 210 females) were captured by the "driving-in" fishing method at Kawana of Sagami Bay, Shizuoka Pref. The females were classified sexually into immature (12) resting (14) and pregnant (72) stages. Twenty-seven lactating females were observed in both stages.

Observation of the pregnant stage was made by the existence of a functional corpus luteum in their ovaries. When a functional corpus luteum was found in the ovary but no embryo could be found in the uterus easily, the uterus was washed in a little water tank. Then the early stage amnion was found as a white threadlike substance. Under observation with the dissecting microscope, however, it could not be ascertained that this amnion always concealed an embryo. Because in this case the embryo was not large enough to attract our attention. In this way, 28 embryos were collected.

The smallest embryo was measured 4.4 mm. in body length. In this embryo the somite was seven. This report is only an introduction to a comprehensive study on the subject. The details be explained on completion of our anatomical study.



Fig 1. Embryo with amnion.

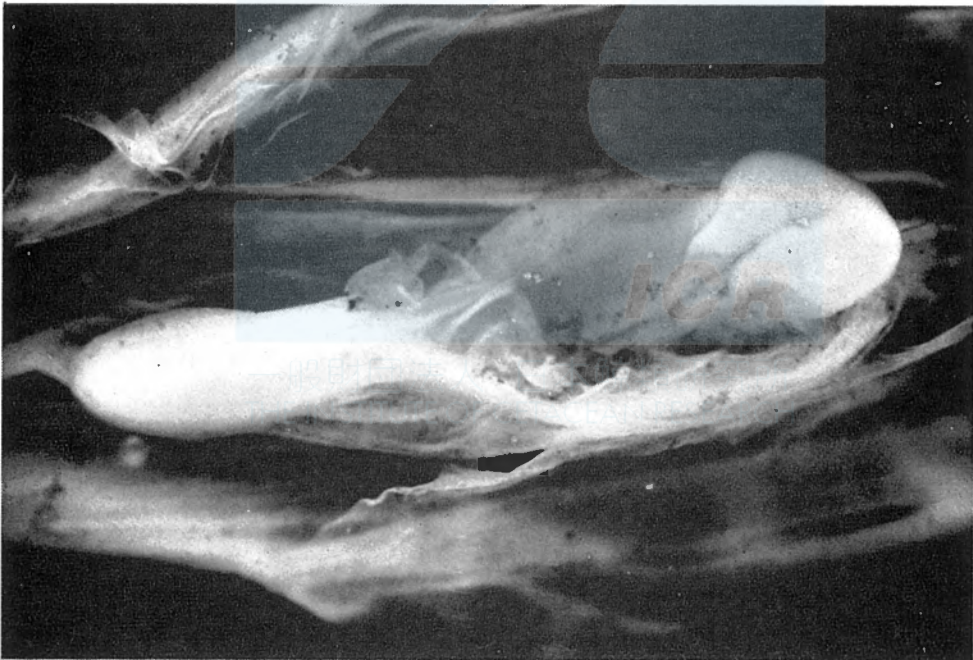


Fig. 2. Enlarged photograph of the embryo.