

New records of crabeater seal, *Lobodon carcinophagus* (Hombron & Jacquinot, 1842) (Mammalia: Pinnipedia), in Rio de Janeiro State, Brazil

Novos registros de foca-caranguejeira, *Lobodon carcinophagus* (Hombron & Jacquinot, 1842) (Mammalia: Pinnipedia), no Estado do Rio de Janeiro, Brasil

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Resumo Essa nota reporta dois novos registros de foca-caranguejeira (*Lobodon carcinophagus*) para o Estado do Rio de Janeiro, Brasil.

Palavras-chave: Foca-caranguejeira, *Lobodon carcinophagus*, Estado do Rio de Janeiro.

Abstract This note reports two new records of crabeater seal (*Lobodon carcinophagus*) for the Rio de Janeiro State, Brazil.

Keywords: Crabeater seal, *Lobodon carcinophagus*, Rio de Janeiro State.

The crabeater seal, *Lobodon carcinophagus* (Hombron & Jacquinot, 1842) (Mammalia: Pinnipedia), is a gregarious and pelagic species, being found on drifting pack ice (KING, 1983). The species presents Antarctic circumpolar distribution (KOOYMAN, 1981; KING, 1983; PINEDO et al., 1992; JEFFERSON et al., 1993; BOYD, 2002) and

its occurrence throughout the year varies seasonally according to the advances, setbacks, and seasonal fluctuations of the pack ice (JEFFERSON et al., 1993; BOYD, 2002). In the summer when there is thaw and the ice break-up, the species can be found at south of the Antarctic Convergence, especially associated with pack ice (KOOYMAN, 1981).

Isolated and occasional occurrences of vagrants crabeater seals have been reported at north of the Antarctic Convergence during sightings of the species throughout Australia, New Zealand, Heard Island, South Africa, and the Atlantic coast of South America about as far north as Rio de Janeiro (ROSS et al., 1976; KING, 1983; PINEDO, 1990; PINEDO et al., 1992; JEFFERSON et al., 1993; BENTGTON, 2002; LODI et al., 2005; MOURA et al., 2011). In Brazil, *L. carcinophagus* has already been recorded in Rio Grande do Sul (n = 5) / (PINEDO et al., 1992; FERREIRA et al., 1995; SIMÕES-LOPES et al., 1995; SILVA et al., 2000; SILVA et al., 2002; SILVA, 2004; OLIVEIRA et al., 2006; SILVA et al., 2014), Santa Catarina (n = 4) / (CIMARDI and CARVALHO-JÚNIOR, 1988; SIMÕES-LOPES

et al., 1995; CASECA-SANTOS and SOTO, 1998), Paraná (n = 1) / (BITTENCOURT and ZANELATTO, 1992), São Paulo (n = 7) / (PINEDO, 1990; ALVARENGA et al., 1998; SOUZA et al., 2004; LODI et al., 2005), and Rio de Janeiro State coast (n = 4) / (VAZ-FERREIRA, 1965; SICILIANO and LODI, 1989; LODI et al., 2005; MOURA et al., 2011).

According to the observations of Oliveira et al. (2006), similar to the data presented in the literature, most of the crabeater seal records on the Brazilian coast occurred during the austral summer and autumn, as well as in the winter months. In the southern region of Brazil, most of records occurred in the autumn and most of the specimens observed were immature (SILVA, 2004; OLIVEIRA et al., 2006), while in the southeastern region, the only two records with available period of occurrence were reported during the autumn, and winter (MOURA et al., 2011), and only one specimen was determined an immature female (LODI et al., 2005).

This paper presents two new records of crabeater seal for the Rio de Janeiro State, the first to the east coast. Information was obtained through personal observations.

On 15 November 2016, a crabeater seal was seen by bathers at Praia do Forte (22°53'02"S, 42°00'50"W) in Cabo Frio City, located on the east coast of Rio de Janeiro State. The specimen moved away from the water and moved towards a sand strip near a small fragment of sand dune vegetation located parallel to the edge of the coastal avenue, where it remained for six hours and a half. At the time, the animal was measured. It was an adult individual with 2.39 m of total length and approximately 200 kg (Figure 1). According to Jefferson et al. (1993), adults of *L. carcinophagus* are up to 2.6 m of length and although few data are available, they weigh approximately 200-300 kg. According to Laws et al. (2003), the approximate length for both males and females is about 2.34 m. The specimen had an unhealed deep circular wound on the upper-posterior part of the body, near the hind limbs (Figure 1 c and d). The wound was open and moist with secretion coming out. It was not possible to determine the sex of the individual.

In the early afternoon, after more than six hours of rest, the pinniped returned to the sea, moving to the north. On 16 November, a specimen with the same characteristics appeared at Praia da Ferradurinha (22°46'53"S, 41°53'59"W) in Armação dos Búzios City, located near Cabo Frio City. The distance

traveled between the two locations was 24.80 km. After resting for about three hours on a small sand strip, the individual returned to the sea and was no most observed. These are the most northern records of *L. carcinophagus* for the Western South Atlantic Ocean.



Figure 1 a) and b) - Specimen of crabeater seal (*Lobodon carcinophagus*) at Praia do Forte in Cabo Frio - RJ; c) and d) - Deep circular wound on the upper-posterior part of the body. Source: Marcelo Tardelli Rodrigues.

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