

Vertebral column anomalies in Indo-Pacific and Atlantic humpback dolphins *Sousa* spp.

Caroline R. Weir*, John Y. Wang

*Corresponding author: caroline.weir@ketosecology.co.uk

Diseases of Aquatic Organisms 120: 179–187 (2016)

Identification of vertebral column anomalies in Atlantic humpback dolphins *Sousa teuszii* was complicated by the extreme morphology of this species. The prominent dorsal hump shape, lateral musculature and tailstock keels often resulted in an area of concavity in the lumbo-caudal region between the trailing edge of the hump and the keel (Fig. S1a), which was especially pronounced during slower surfacings where the tailstock was held at a shallower angle relative to the body (Fig. S1b,c). Consequently, it was often difficult to establish with certainty whether vertebral column anomalies were present.

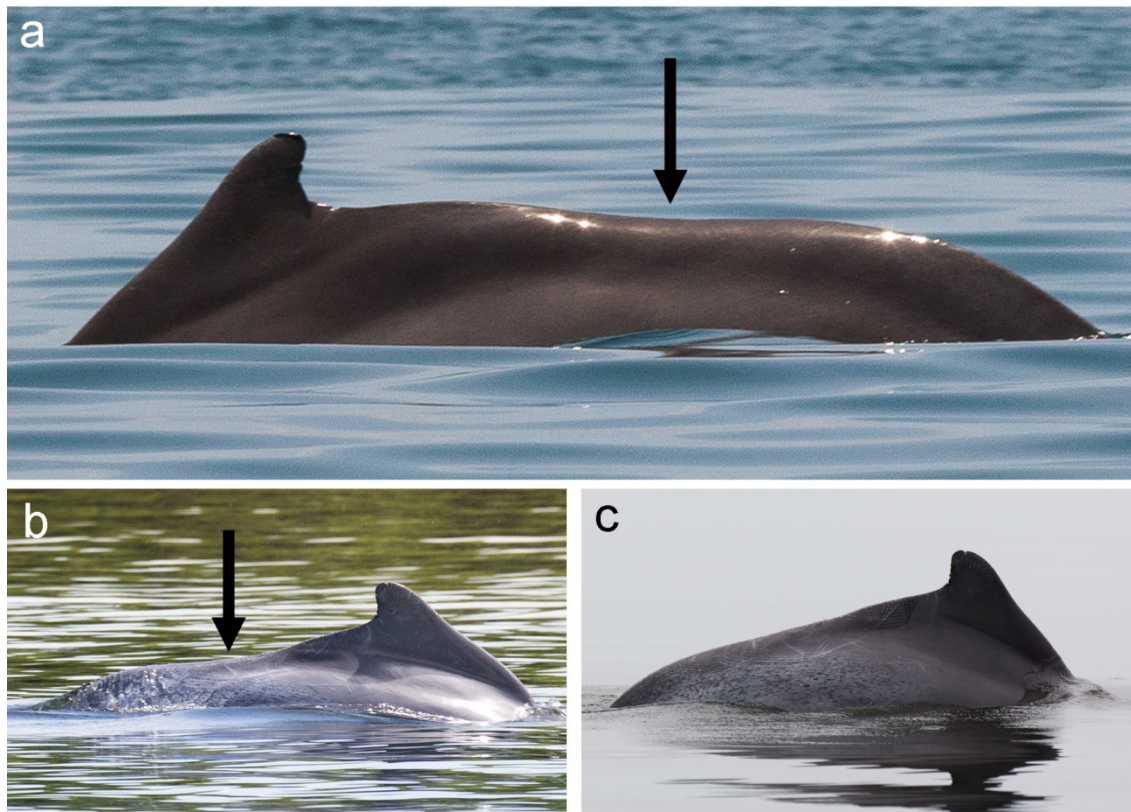


Figure S1. Presumed non-anomalous concavity in the tailstock of *Sousa teuszii*: (a) adult (FL6) in southern Angola where concavity results from the prominent dorsal hump and keel; and (b,c) adult (SD_P6) in Senegal showing how the concavity and keel are emphasised by behaviourally-related flexion of the tailstock. Photos: C.R. Weir.