

See discussions, stats, and author profiles for this publication at: <http://www.researchgate.net/publication/256293985>

Proposed English common name for the neotropical delphinid *Sotalia guianensis* (P-J. Van Beneden, 1864)

ARTICLE · DECEMBER 2010

DOI: 10.5597/lajam00167

CITATIONS

2

DOWNLOADS

91

VIEWS

89

18 AUTHORS, INCLUDING:



[Jaime Bolaños-Jiménez](#)

Sociedad Ecológica Venezolana Vida Marina

24 PUBLICATIONS 63 CITATIONS

SEE PROFILE



[Marta Jussara Cremer](#)

Universidade da Região de Joinville (Univille)

42 PUBLICATIONS 142 CITATIONS

SEE PROFILE



[Laura J May-Collado](#)

University of Vermont

49 PUBLICATIONS 516 CITATIONS

SEE PROFILE



[Koen Van Waerebeek](#)

Peruvian Centre for Cetacean Research (CE...)

157 PUBLICATIONS 1,695 CITATIONS

SEE PROFILE

<http://dx.doi.org/10.5597/lajam00167>

PROPOSED ENGLISH COMMON NAME FOR THE NEOTROPICAL DELPHINID *SOTALIA GUIANENSIS* (P.-J. VAN BÉNEDÉN, 1864)

PAULO A. C. FLORES^{1*}, MARIEL BAZZALO², SUSANA CABALLERO^{3,4}, MARCOS C. DE O. SANTOS⁵, MARCOS R. ROSSI-SANTOS⁶, FERNANDO TRUJILLO⁷, JAIME BOLAÑOS-JIMENEZ⁸, MARTA J. CREMER⁹, LAURA J. MAY-COLLADO¹⁰, FLÁVIO J. L. SILVA¹¹, MARIA GABRIELA MONTIEL-VILLALOBOS¹², ALEXANDRE F. AZEVEDO¹³, ANA C. O. MEIRELLES¹⁴, LEONARDO FLACH¹⁵, HECTOR BARRIOS-GARRIDO¹⁶, PAULO C. SIMÕES-LOPES¹⁷, HAYDÉE A. CUNHA¹⁸ AND KOEN VAN WAEREBEEK¹⁹

Dolphins of the genus *Sotalia* (Delphinidae) occur along the Atlantic and Caribbean coasts of South and Central America and in the Amazon and Orinoco River basins (Flores and Da Silva, 2009; da Silva *et al.*, 2010 this volume; Gómez-Salazar *et al.*, 2010 this volume). The genus has been divided into two species based on skull morphology (Monteiro Filho *et al.*, 2002) and genetic evidence (Cunha *et al.*, 2005; Caballero *et al.*, 2007; Caballero *et al.*, 2010 this volume). The name *Sotalia fluviatilis* (Gervais and Deville in Gervais, 1853) has been assigned to animals found in the Amazon River basin (riverine) while *Sotalia guianensis* (P.-J. Van Bénédén, 1864) designates the coastal (marine) species in South and Central America, including the Orinoco River delta and Lake Maracaibo in Venezuela. While the name tucuxi has been widely adopted to refer to the former, for the latter common or vernacular names, whether in Spanish, Portuguese or English, vary depending on local designations across its range. The taxonomic status of dolphins occurring in the lower and middle Orinoco is uncertain and here we refer to them as *Sotalia* sp.

Along its distribution (Figure 1), *S. guianensis* is locally known as 'boto', 'golfinho', 'boto comum', 'golfinho-cinza' or 'boto-cinza' off the Brazilian coast; 'bufeo gris', 'bufeo blanco' or 'bufeo negro' in coastal Colombia; 'tonina del lago' in Lake Maracaibo and 'bufeo negro', 'bufete' or 'soplón' in the Orinoco River basin in Venezuela; 'lam' in Nicaragua; Guiana dolphin or Guiana white dolphin in British Guyana and 'profosu' or 'dolfijn'²⁰ in Suriname. These names naturally correspond to the different languages spoken in the various range states.

Several common, local names have tentatively been adopted in English (e.g. Geise, 2006), but authors with different linguistic backgrounds usually do not choose the same names. For instance, a review of the published literature on the species from 2002 to 2007 (approximately 60 scientific papers), revealed that for those papers in which at least an English title or abstract was provided, the most frequently used common name was 'marine tucuxi' (e.g. Flores, 1999; Azevedo *et al.*, 2007; Santos and Rosso, 2008), followed by 'estuarine dolphin' (e.g. Rosas and Monteiro Filho, 2002; Souto *et*

¹ Centro Mamíferos Aquáticos, Centro Nacional de Pesquisa & Conservação de Mamíferos Aquáticos, ICMBio, Rod. Maurício Sirotsky Sobrinho, s/n, km02, Jurerê, Florianópolis, SC, 88053-700, Brasil

² Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina.

³ Laboratorio de Ecología Molecular de Vertebrados Acuáticos, Departamento de Ciencias Biológicas, Universidad de los Andes, Carrera 1 # 18 A-10, Bogotá, Colombia

⁴ Ecology and Evolution Research Group, School of Biological Sciences, The University of Auckland, New Zealand

⁵ Laboratório de Biologia da Conservação de Cetáceos, Programa de Pós-Graduação em Zoologia, Departamento de Zoologia, Instituto de Biociências, Universidade Estadual Paulista 'Júlio de Mesquita Filho', Campus Rio Claro Av. 24-A, 1515, Bela Vista, Rio Claro, SP, Brasil, 13506-900

⁶ Instituto Baleia Jubarte, C.P. 92, Praia do Forte, Mata de São João, BA, 48.280-000, Brasil

⁷ Fundación Omacha, Calle 86A No. 23-38, Bogotá, Colombia

⁸ Sociedad Ecológica Venezolana Vida Marina, A.P. 162, Cagua, Estado Aragua, Venezuela

⁹ Universidade da Região de Joinville, Departamento de Ciências Biológicas, Laboratório de Nectologia, C. P. 110, São Francisco do Sul, SC, 89240-000, Brasil

¹⁰ Departamento de Biología, University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 00931

¹¹ Universidade do Estado do Rio Grande do Norte, Projeto Cetáceos da Costa Branca; Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Norte Projeto Pequenos Cetáceos; and Centro Golfinho Rotador, Brasil

¹² Laboratorio de Ecología y Genética de Poblaciones, Centro de Ecología, Instituto Venezolano de Investigaciones Científicas, Caracas 1020-A, Venezuela

¹³ Laboratório de Mamíferos Aquáticos, Faculdade de Oceanografia, Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro, R. São Francisco Xavier, 524 sala 4002E, Maracanã, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, 20550-013, Brasil

¹⁴ Associação de Pesquisa e Preservação de Ecossistemas Aquáticos, Praia de Iparana s/n, SESC Iparana, Caucaia, Ceará, 61627-010, Brasil

¹⁵ Projeto Boto Cinza, Rua Santa Terezinha, 531, Vila Muriqui, Mangaratiba, Rio de Janeiro, 23860-000, Brasil

¹⁶ Laboratorio de Ecología General, Departamento de Biología, Facultad Experimental de Ciencias, Universidad del Zulia, Maracaibo, Venezuela

¹⁷ Laboratório de Mamíferos Aquáticos, Departamento de Ecologia e Zoologia, Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, C. P. 5102, Florianópolis, SC, 88040-970, Brasil

¹⁸ Laboratório de Biodiversidade Molecular, Departamento de Genética, Instituto de Biologia, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro; and Laboratório de Mamíferos Aquáticos, Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro, Bloco A, Sl. A2-098, Ilha do Fundão, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, 21941-590, Brasil

¹⁹ Centro Peruano de Estudios Cetológicos, Museo de Delfines, Pucusana, Lima-20, Peru

* Corresponding author, e-mail: paulo.flores@icmbio.gov.br, flores.p@terra.com.br

²⁰ 'Dolphin' in Dutch

al., 2006; Rossi-Santos *et al.*, 2007). Nomenclatural consistency is clearly lacking, as emphasised by instances in which the same journal has accepted two different names (marine tucuxi and estuarine dolphin) as seen in Azevedo *et al.* (2007), Rossi-Santos *et al.* (2007), Rosas and Monteiro Filho (2002), and Santos and Rosso (2008). Recently, yet another name, 'costero,' was proposed in a single article (Caballero *et al.*, 2007). In fact, none of the English common names proposed to date has properly reflected either the species' distribution, habitats or other conspicuous characteristic; all may therefore be considered misleading or inadequate.

During its 2008 Annual Meeting in Santiago, Chile, as proposed by Flores *et al.* (2008), the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) endorsed 'Guiana dolphin' as the common English name for *Sotalia guianensis* in its IWC List of Recognized Cetacean Species (LRCS), and thus also for its *Journal of Cetacean Research and Management* (IWC, 2009). The

primary rationale accepted by the IWC Scientific Committee related to the geographic area from where this species was first described. In addition, the Committee recognised the consensus achieved by various authors from different countries covering the species' range in proposing the common name.

Here we propose that from now on 'Guiana dolphin' be used as the English common name of *S. guianensis* in the *Latin American Journal of Aquatic Mammals* (LAJAM), as well as in all related fora such as the *Sociedad Latinoamericana de Especialistas en Mamíferos Acuáticos* (SOLAMAC, the Latin American Society of Specialists on Aquatic Mammals). Considering the endorsement by the Scientific Committee of the IWC, it would be appropriate and consistent if authors apply the name 'Guiana dolphin' elsewhere as well. It should be emphasised that in proposing this English common name, we are not attempting to propose or define any local names for the species in any of the range states.

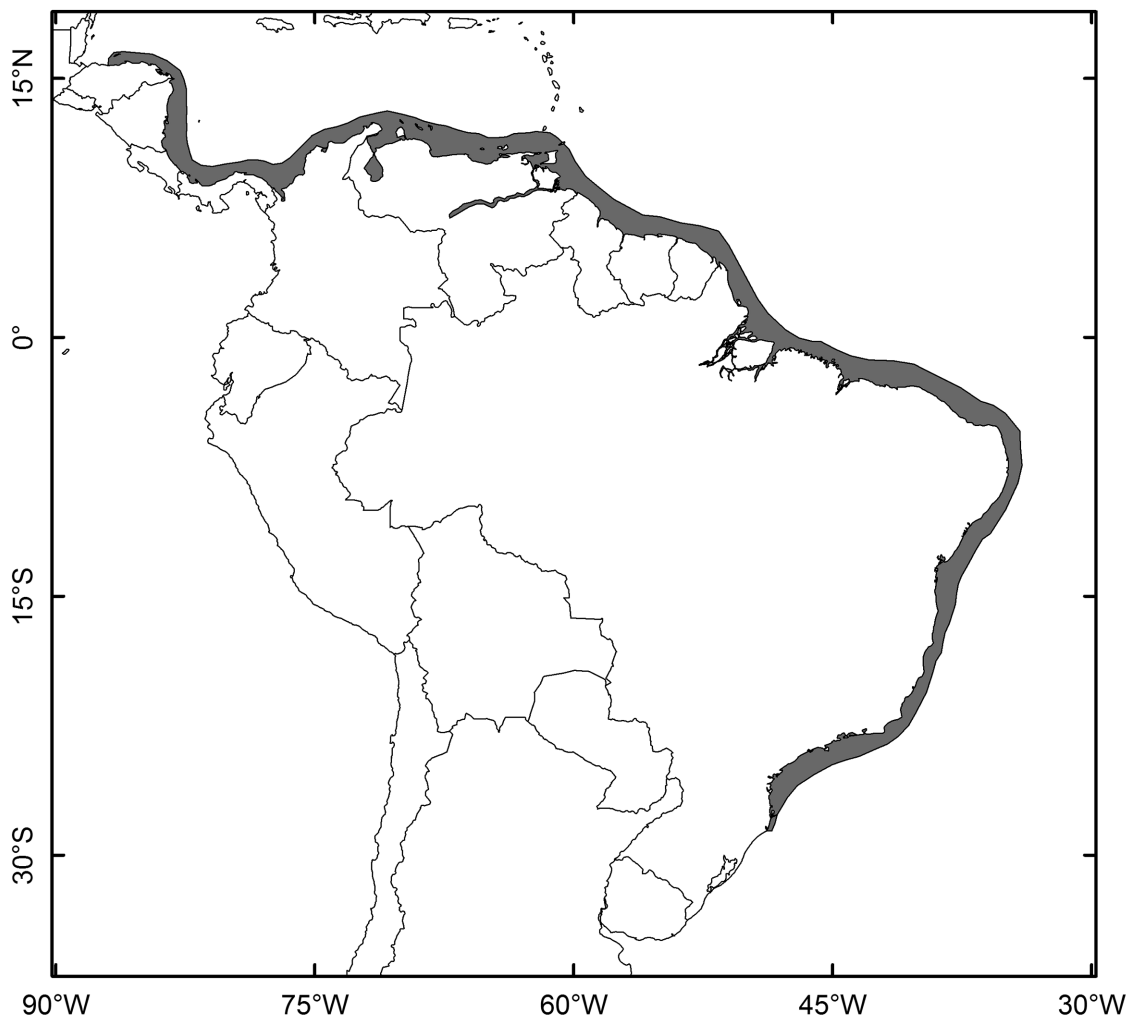


Figure 1. Distribution (area in grey) of the Guiana dolphin *Sotalia guianensis* in South and Central America (map by Júlia E.C. Oshima).

Acknowledgments

We thank Eduardo R. Secchi and Alexandre N. Zerbini for earlier discussions on this paper as well as Greg P. Donovan and Daniel M. Palacios for thoughtful reviews of the manuscript. Júlia E.F. Oshima kindly drew the map in Figure 1.

References

- AZEVEDO, A.F., OLIVEIRA, A.M., VIANA, S.C. AND VAN SLUYS, M. (2007) Habitat use by marine tucuxis (*Sotalia guianensis*) (Cetacea: Delphinidae) in Guanabara Bay, south-eastern Brazil. *Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom* 87(2): 201-205. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0025315407054422>
- CABALLERO, S., TRUJILLO, F., VIANNA, J.A., BARRIOS-GARRIDO, H., MONTIEL, M.G., BELTRAN-PEDREROS, S., MARMONTEL, M., SANTOS, M.C.O., ROSSI-SANTOS, M.R., SANTOS, F.R. AND BAKER, C.S. (2007) Taxonomic status of the genus *Sotalia*: species level ranking for 'tucuxi' (*Sotalia fluviatilis*) and 'costero' (*Sotalia guianensis*) dolphins. *Marine Mammal Science* 23(2): 358-386. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1748-7692.2007.00110.x>
- CABALLERO, S., TRUJILLO, F., VIANNA, J.A., BARRIOS-GARRIDO, H., MONTIEL, M.G., BELTRÁN-PEDREROS, S., MARMONTEL, M., SANTOS, M.C.O., ROSSI-SANTOS, M.R., SANTOS, F.R. AND BAKER, C.S. (2010) Mitochondrial DNA diversity, differentiation and phylogeography of the South American riverine and coastal dolphins *Sotalia fluviatilis* and *Sotalia guianensis*. *Latin American Journal of Aquatic Mammals* 8(1-2): 69-79. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5597/lajam00155>
- CUNHA, H.A., DA SILVA, V.M.F., LAÍLSON-BRITO, J.J., SANTOS, M.C.O., FLORES, P.A.C., MARTIN, A.R., AZEVEDO, A.F., FRAGOSO, A.B.L., ZANELATTO, R.C. AND SOLÉ-CAVA, A.M. (2005) Riverine and marine ecotypes of *Sotalia fluviatilis* are different species. *Marine Biology* 148(2): 449-457. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s00227-005-0078-2>
- DA SILVA, V.M.F., FETTUCCIA, D., RODRIGUES, E.S., EDWARDS, H., MORENO, I.B., MOURA, J.F., WEDEKIN, L.L., BAZZALO, M., EMIN-LIMA, N.R., CORMA, N.A.S., SICILIANO, S. AND UTRERAS B., V. (2010) Report of the Working Group on Distribution, Habitat Characteristics and Preferences, and Group Size. *Latin American Journal of Aquatic Mammals* 8(1-2): 31-38. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5597/lajam00151>
- FLORES, P.A.C. (1999) Preliminary results of a photoidentification study of the marine tucuxi *Sotalia fluviatilis* in southern Brazil. *Marine Mammal Science* 15(3): 840-847. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/j.1748-7692.1999.tb00846.x>
- FLORES, P.A.C. & DA SILVA, V.M.F. (2009) Tucuxi and Guiana Dolphin (*Sotalia fluviatilis* and *S. guianensis*). Pages 1188-1192 in PERRIN, W.F., WÜRSIG, B. AND THEWISSEN, J.G. M. (Eds) *Encyclopedia of Marine Mammals*. Elsevier, Amsterdam, 2nd ed.
- FLORES, P.A.C., BAZZALO, M., CABALLERO, S., SANTOS, M.C.O., TRUJILLO, F., AZEVEDO, A.F., CREMER, M.J., SIMÕES-LOPES, P.C., MAY-COLLADO, L.J., FLACH, L., BARRIOS, H., MONTIEL, M.G., ROSSI-SANTOS, M.R., MEIRELLES, A.C.O., BOLAÑOS, J. AND SILVA, F.J.L. (2008) Proposed English common name of *Sotalia guianensis* to the IWC List of Recognized Cetacean Species. Paper SC/60/SM16 presented to the Scientific Committee of the International Whaling Commission. June 2008, Santiago, Chile. 3 pp. [Paper available at the IWC Secretariat, Cambridge, UK, or at <<http://www.iwcoffice.org>>].
- GEISE, L. (2006) The correct use of the vernacular names for South American dolphins genus *Sotalia* Gray (Mammalia, Cetacea, Delphinidae). *Revista Brasileira de Zoologia* 23(4): 1275-1276. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1590/S0101-81752006000400043>
- GERVAIS, P. (1853) Remarques sur les mammifères marins qui fréquentent les côtes de La France et plus particulièrement sur une nouvelle espèce de Dauphin propre à la Méditerranée. *Bulletin de la Société Centrale d'Agriculture et des comices agricoles du département de l'Herault* (Montpellier), 40 année (Avril, Main, Juin): 140-156.
- GÓMEZ-SALAZAR, C., PORTOCARRERO-AYA, M., TRUJILLO, F., CABALLERO, S., BOLAÑOS-JIMÉNEZ, J., UTRERAS, V., MCGUIRE, T., FERRER-PÉREZ, A., POOL, M., AND ALIAGA-ROSSEL, E. (2010) Update on the freshwater distribution of *Sotalia* in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela and Suriname. *Latin American Journal of Aquatic Mammals* 8(1-2): 171-178. <http://dx.doi.org/10.5597/lajam00166>
- INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION (2009) Report of the Scientific Committee. *Journal of Cetacean Research and Management* (Supplement) 11: 1-74.
- MONTEIRO FILHO, E.L.A., MONTEIRO, L.R. AND REIS, S.F. (2002) Skull shape and size divergence in dolphins of the genus *Sotalia*: a tridimensional morphometric analysis. *Journal of Mammalogy* 83(1): 125-134. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1644/1545-1542%282002%29083%3C0125%3ASASDI%3E2.0.CO;2>
- ROSAS, F.C.W. AND MONTEIRO FILHO, E.L.A. (2002). Reproduction of the estuarine dolphin (*Sotalia guianensis*) on the coast of Parana, southern Brazil. *Journal of Mammalogy* 83(2): 507-515. <http://www.bioone.org/doi/abs/10.1644/1545-1542%282002%29083%3C0507%3AROTEDS%3E2.0.CO%3B2>
- ROSSI-SANTOS, M.R., WEDEKIN, L.L. AND MONTEIRO FILHO, E.L.A. (2007) Residence and site fidelity of *Sotalia guianensis* in the Caravelas River Estuary, eastern Brazil. *Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom* 87(2): 207-212. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0025315407055683>
- SANTOS, M.C.O. AND ROSSO, S. (2008). Social organization of marine tucuxi dolphins, *Sotalia guianensis*, in the Cananéia estuary of Southeastern Brazil. *Journal of Mammalogy* 89(2): 347-355. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1644/07-MAMM-A-090R2.1>
- SOUTO, A., ARAÚJO, J.P., GEISE, L. AND ARAÚJO, M.E. (2006) The surface behavior of the estuarine dolphin in Baía dos Golfinhos, RN, Brazil: a field and comparative study. *Revista Brasileira de Zoociências* 8(2): 183-192.
- VAN BENEDEN, P.-J. (1864) Sur un Dauphin nouveau (*Delphinus guianensis*) et un Ziphiode rare. *Mémoires de l'Académie Royale de Sciences de Belgique* 16(1): 1-21.

Received on 23 July 2008. Accepted on 13 June 2010.
Managed by Monica Borobia.

