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European
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Posters

Biochemical parameters in subadult female Risso's dolphins (*Grampus griseus*)

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The purpose of this study is to identify Reference Intervals of biochemical parameters in Risso's dolphins as there is limited information on blood parameters in this cetacean species. Reference Intervals are specific to the test methods and should be calculated from a group of healthy animals. In 3 years, 818 blood samples were collected from 9 pre-pubertal females hosted under human care during clinical routine checks. Blood was obtained from periarterial venous rete in the ventral side of the flukes and then placed in tubes without anticoagulant for serum. The fundamental biochemical parameters were determined and reported as mean \pm sd. In literature, studies on CHEM parameters for Risso's dolphins are rare. Some analytes, such as the lipoproteins profile, and cholesterol levels could also differ significantly due to the dietary habits of different genera. Establishment of reference intervals specific to the species or group (i.e. sex, age) is essential for correct diagnosis and management of medical conditions that are monitored by laboratory testing.

ABYSS: an N.G.O dedicated to cetaceans' conservation in the western coast of La Reunion Island.

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ABYSS is a N.G.O. based in La Réunion Island that studies wild cetaceans and their habitats. We have 4 main topics:

1. CETOSCOPE to study cetaceans' communication. We are able to identify the individual(s) that vocalize(s) within a group of cetaceans swimming in a 3D environment, to link the vocalizations to the individual's behaviours and to analyse its conspecifics' sound productions and behaviours.
2. BEC (Bien-être des Cétacés) to assess wild cetaceans' health status and welfare. Following a non-intrusive protocol, we collect faecal and skin samples in order to assess faecal (skin) glucocorticoid concentrations. Anthropogenic pressure raises in La Réunion Island and potentially impacts cetaceans, BEC investigates it.
3. THETYS, to track humpback whale populations and describe their environmental conditions. Using satellite images, we are able to spot humpback whales (and potential behaviours) and to observe environmental conditions. This project offers the possibility to study the marine megafauna in the Indian ocean.
4. BioEparDev, to study the fauna and flora associated to algae and floating macro-wastes to assess their potential risks for the marine (mega)fauna and human health.

ABYSS needs your help: we will list actions that you could undertake and explain how you could join us to protect cetaceans.