

GROSS NECROPSY REPORT

SPECIES *Tt* **FIELD NUMBER** 66IMMS031811 **DATE** July 19, 2011
LOCATION Biloxi, MS **LAT/LONG** 30.39253/-88.93346
SEX F **TL** 103 cm **COND** 3 **WEIGHT** 10.5 Kg

66IMMS031811 *Tt*GROSS NECROPSY

A 10.5 kg, 103 cm total length, female *Tursiops truncatus* is presented dead July 20, 2011 in fair post mortem (code 3) and moderate body condition. The animal is moderately fleshed and there is generalized pale green discoloration of the blubber. The ductus arteriosus and foramen ovale are patent and the internal and external aspects of the umbilicus are normal. There is a small umbilical stalk remnant. The lung is not inflated and representative portions sink on immersion in formalin. The stomach is empty; there is exfoliated mucosa within the lumen. The dorsal fin is floppy and fetal folds are prominent. Rostral follicles and vibrissae are noted and there is no tooth eruption. Within the left axilla, there are multifocal to coalescing variably sized superficial cutaneous erosions with irregular curvilinear to serrated margins. Along the right midlateral aspect of the chest wall, dorsal to the right flipper, there is a 3x1 cm oblong and slightly oblique cutaneous ulcer with smooth margins and scattered peripherally radiating fissures. An inverted 1x2 cm "V" defect is on the contralateral thoracic wall, with a small cluster of punctate grey erosions bound by a thick grey black margin

caudodorsally. There are two similar cutaneous defects in the mid dorsum, 0.5x1 cm and 1x2 cm cranial and oblique to the dorsal fin. Within the throat region, there are scattered superficial erosions and fissures. Circumferentially, there is moderate swelling and ulceration of the margins of the right eye. Approximately 15 cm of bowel is extruded from the rectum; the serosa of the exposed segments is dark red and there is a small amount of meconium. There is moderate enlargement of the spleen, which is homogenous red black on sectioned surface. There are no other apparent internal or external lesions.



Umbilicus

CONCLUSIONS

Representative portions of lung did not float on immersion in formalin and an in utero, near term death is a prime consideration for the loss of this animal. The axillary, thoracic and peri-ocular cutaneous erosions and ulcerations are likely agonal or post mortem associated with scavenging or other physical trauma. Although the splenomegaly is suggestive of low grade antigenic stimulation, there was no indication of acute infection throughout the carcass. The green discoloration of the blubber is attributed to post mortem decomposition rather than icterus.

GROSS FINDINGS

- 1). Skin: Erosions and ulceration, moderate, multifocal to coalescing, acute
- 2). Rectum: Extrusion, bowel, moderate, segmental
- 3). Spleen: Splenomegally, moderate, diffuse
- 4). Eye, palpebral: Edema, submucosa, moderate, circumferential, with ulceration

TISSUE DISPOSITION

Teeth and skin for life history
Lung for histopathology
Brain for bacteriology
Meconium retained for biotoxins
Brain, adrenal gland and lung for virology
Morphometrics recorded
Photographs
Radiographs, conducted 03/16/11
Head for radiography
Carcass archived frozen