

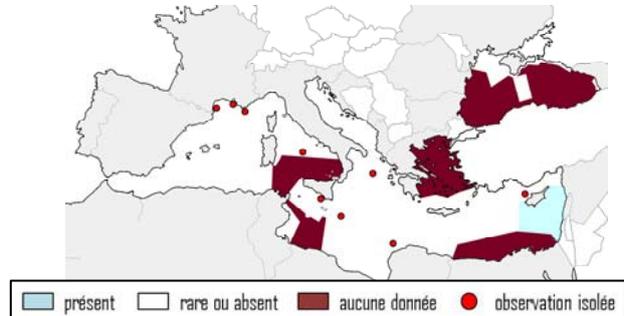
DISTRIBUTION

The species frequents the warm-temperate and tropical waters worldwide, in particular where the surface sea temperature exceeds 25°C. In spite of its wide distribution, it is nowhere abundant.

MEDITERRANEAN AND BLACK SEAS

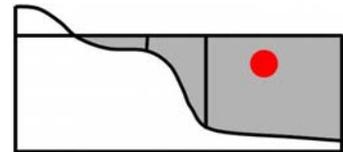
Once considered as a visitor to the Mediterranean Sea (Notarbartolo di Sciara 2002b, Reeves & Notarbartolo di Sciara 2006), it is now seen as regular in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea (while maintaining visitor status in the Western Mediterranean Sea).

Absent from the Black Sea and the Marmara Sea.



HABITAT AND ECOLOGY

Usually found in oceanic waters, above and beyond the shelf break. However, in the Mediterranean Sea, it has also been observed in coastal waters.



BEHAVIOUR

A rather poorly known species. Lives generally in groups of 10-30 individuals, although greater aggregations are known, up to several hundred individuals, notably in the Pacific.

Social ties are strong and may be of the cause of mass strandings. Several instances of mutual help behaviour have been reported.

Encountered frequently associated with other cetacean species, such as pilot whales and bottlenose dolphins.

Relatively active at the surface, known to bowride.

Longevity	At least 30 years.
Swimming speed:	About 3-5 kts (5-9 km/h), 15 kts (25 km/h) during bursts.
Dives:	15 min or more, probably relatively deep.

REPRODUCTION

Sexual maturity:	10 years in females, 14 years in males.
Breeding season:	Probably summer or beginning of autumn.
Gestation:	-
Nursing:	-

FOOD

Squid, cuttlefish and several of fish species.

THREATS

Accidental captures in purse seines, direct hunting in Japan, habitat degradation and fisheries interactions.