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Blainville's beaked whale is one of better known members of the family Ziphiidae. This species is known from several strandings in Asia and we present a first record from Brunei Darussalam.

Brunei Darussalam is a sovereign state located on the north west coast of the island of Borneo in Southeast Asia. Cetacean strandings there are monitored by a stranding network at the Panaga Natural History Society (PNHS).

In December 1998 a 380cm beaked whale was found dead on Panaga Beach near Seria, in Belait district (4° 36.540'N, 114° 17.450'E) (**Figs.1-2**). After a long struggle by PNHS members and fire fighters to take the mammal back to the sea, it died. It had a clean-cut wound on the lower part of its body, probably from a boat propeller. Its color was medium gray with a paler belly. The carcass was transferred to Bandar Seri Begawan, where it was buried by Brunei Museum staff. The mandibles and skeleton were later collected and deposited in the collection of the Brunei Museum (Natural History Section), where it is still on display (**Fig.3**). McIllroy and Yusniasita-Dols (2009) reported the specimen incorrectly as a Cuvier's Beaked whale. It was identified by one of us (WB) as a female Blainville's beaked whale, *Mesoplodon densirostris*. The high arching lower jaw observed in the specimen is diagnostic for *M. densirostris* (Mead 1989). Sex determination was confirmed based on the unerupted teeth and the unfilled mesorostral channel (**Fig.4**) (Ross 1984).

Blainville's beaked whale's distribution is considered the most extensive of the *Mesoplodon* genus (Mead 1989). In Asia stranding hot spots have been reported in Japan (24 records <http://svrsh1.kahaku.go.jp>), in the Philippines (15 records in the first author's unpublished database), in Taiwan (12 or more records <http://www.whale.org.tw>), China (11 records, Wang et. al. 2011, and first author's unpublished database). There are strandings in India (<http://collections.mnh.si.edu/search/mammals>, Kumarran 2012), Indonesia (400-450 cm female <http://www.whalestrandingindonesia.com/ViewStranding.php?ID=94>, incorrectly reported as 500 cm in Wibowo and Dharmadi 2014), Maldives (Anderson et.al. 2012), South Korea (Kim 1996, Yong-Rock An pers. comm.), Sri Lanka (Leatherwood and Reeves 1989) and Thailand (DMCR 2014).

This first record of *Mesoplodon densirostris* in Brunei extends the range of the species in Southeast Asia. It is essential to carry out more stranding surveys, research cruises and to develop stranding networks in many countries to understand the situation of the species and other ziphiids in Southeast Asia.

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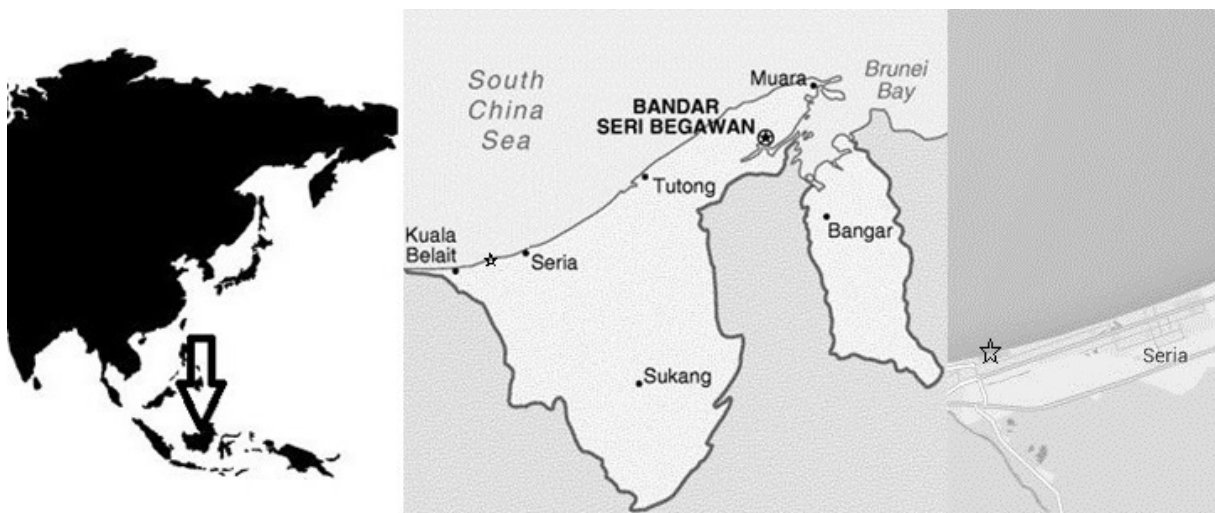


Fig. 1. The stranding site.



Fig. 2. Female's head. Photo: Novi Yusniasita - Dols



Fig. 3. Female's mandibles and skull. Photos: Novi Yusniasita - Dols



Fig. 4. Female's teeth. Photo: Novi Yusniasita - Dols