

THE CORRECT GENERIC NAMES FOR THE GRAMPUS OR KILLER WHALE, AND THE SO-CALLED GRAMPUS OR RISSO'S DOLPHIN.

By

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(Plate x).

Following upon the recent record of the stranding of a male and female "*Grampus*" *griseus* at Sydney,¹ joint consideration of the taxonomy of the genus *Grampus*, involving the correct name for the Killer Whale, has thrown considerable light on a complex synonymy which has left the respective names in doubt for over a century. In this regard, it may be noted that in the 1922 Guide to the British Museum collection of Cetacea alternative popular and scientific names are given thus, "Grampus or Killer (*Orcinus orca* or *Orca gladiator*)," for the Killer Whale, an uncertainty which this paper endeavours to remove.

An account of our conclusions derived from these investigations is now placed on record with a view to stabilising the generic name to be employed for the Killer Whale or Grampus, and providing a tenable name for the dolphin to which the name grampus has been popularly applied by authors since 1828, and which is sometimes known as Risso's Dolphin.

Genus **Grampus** Gray.

- 1787, "Grampus" Hunter, Phil. Trans., xvi, p. 306 (307, 308, 322, 329, 350), pl. v, figs. 1-2.
- 1828, *Grampus* Gray, Spicilegia Zoologica, pt. 1, p. 2. Type by tautonomy, and subsequent designation (Zool. Journ., iv, 1829, p. 497), *Delphinus grampus* "Linn" = Hunter.
- 1846, *Orca* Gray, Zool. "Erebus" and "Terror," i, p. 33 (not *Orca* Wagler 1830). Type by tautonomy *Delphinus orca* Linn.
- 1860, *Orcinus* Fitzinger, Wiss.—Populare Naturgesch. Säugethiere, vi, pp. 204-217 (not *Orcynus* Cuvier, a fish); Id., Palmer, Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., xiii, 1899, p. 24 (name revived).
- 1868, *Ophysia* Gray, Synopsis Whales and Dolphins in B.M., p. 8. Type by monotypy *Orca capensis* Gray.
- 1870, *Gladiator* Gray, Proc. Zool. Soc., p. 71. Type by monotypy *Orca stenorhyncha* Gray.

References in literature from the early sixteenth century, quoted in Murray's New English Dictionary, make it clear that the name "Grampus" was commonly applied to various cetaceans. Murray further states that "In popular use, the name (Grampus) seems to be most frequently applied to the formidable 'Killer' (*Orca gladiator*)." It is clear that it was thus used by Hunter, and accepted by many later authorities, who recognized the good figure given by Hunter as applicable.

¹ Troughton.—Proc. Zool. Soc., 1931, pp. 565-569, pl. i, figs. 1-3.