

Ocorrência, distribuição e comportamento de Baleias-de-Bryde (*Balaenoptera edeni* Anderson, 1879) (Cetacea, Mysticeti) em áreas costeiras e oceânicas do sudeste do Brasil

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Abstract. Occurrence, distribution and behavior of bryde's whales (*Balaenoptera edeni* Anderson, 1879) (Cetacea, Mysticeti) in coastal and oceanic areas from southeast of Brazil. The bryde's whale (*Balaenoptera edeni* Anderson, 1879) are among the lesser known balenopterids in Brazil and also in the world. Normally they are found in the tropical region between the coordinates of 40° N and 40° S, and they do not develop extensive migrations through transoceanic movements as the other species of its family. The aim of this work was to study the occurrence and distribution of bryde's whale in the western South Atlantic, with emphasis in the Marine State Park of Laje de Santos (PEMLS), relating it to the depth and seasonality, and also to register, in a systematic way, the behaviors in coastal and oceanic areas. Sighting surveys were conducted from January 2003 to July 2005 aboard tourism boats that act in the PEMLS, cruises aboard the oceanographic vessel Prof. Wladimir Besnard and also cruises dedicated specifically to bryde's whale studies. The chosen areas for the execution of the work included coastal (until the isobath of 3000m) and oceanic areas, including mainly Marine Conservation Areas of São Paulo coast. During the survey, 42 sightings were made, totalizing 71 individuals, between the isobaths of 20m and 3000m. Sightings and individuals rates were more frequently in summer season coastal areas. It was also possible to observe the simultaneous occurrence of different behaviors in coastal and oceanic areas as well as parental investment and social interaction behaviors in oceanic areas. The social interaction occurred at the isobath of 1200m, in which four adult individuals were observed breaching, representing the first report of this behavior for Brazil. It were registered groups in displacement, inter and intra-specifics interaction in coastal area. Blows, dorsum and belly exhibition, head stands, exposition of dorsal fin and breaching were observed, through continuous focal animal sampling, which were categorized inside behavioral categories: feeding, social interaction, parental investment and displacement. Blows were the most observed behavior, and displacement was the most occurring category. The social interaction and the parental investment were observed in only one sighting each, both in oceanic area and presenting a high behavioral diversity. Feeding reports were observed in the area of the PEMLS during the summer season, giving evidence that it is used as feeding area by bryde whales. Probably these individuals migrate from coastal to oceanic areas for breeding. These informations can subsidize the management plan of marine conservation areas and represent an important advance in the research contributing to cetaceans conservation efforts.

Keywords: marine conservation areas; conservation, Marine State Park Laje de Santos.