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Further experiences in observing, catching and acclimatizing Jacobitas (*Cephalorhynchus commersoni*)—Slides from Magellanstrait/Chile

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The Commerson's dolphin (we call him 'Jacobita', the former much shorter name), though already described more than $1\frac{1}{2}$ centuries ago, is nearly unknown as far as his habits are concerned. So it seems to be a remarkable progress that we have today an own scientific session in this species, which was probably initiated by some at Duisburg Zoo's activities.

After two operations at the Patagonian coast of Argentine (Golfo San Jorge/Bahia Grande) during winter 1978 and 1980, we were acting in the eastern part of the Magellan Street (Chile) in January/February 1984. Altogether we have been working in Jacobita-habitats for more than 3 months and—with nearly daily contacts to the animals—we could gather a lot of observations concerning distribution and behaviour of this kind. These observations have been done and will continue in future with those specimens, which are already kept for 7, 5 or 1 year in our Walarium, regardless of some considerable losses.

In the Argentine coastal waters sardines were the predominant food of the Jacobitas. February is the peak of the calving season, some pictures of mothers with new-born young could be made; during food uptake and guiding their young Jacobitas are swimming there very closely to the shore. Their population probably has been considerably reduced by increasing oil-boring activities and consequently pollution (e.g. in a little bay where we observed about 100 specimens in 1978, we could find 15 animals only in 1980).

In the Chilean waters we could not observe any young at all during the same season (January/February); further, sardines do not seem to be of similar importance in food like in Argentine. The weather conditions—already very difficult in Argentine coastal waters—were still substantially worse, most of all because of numerous storms. It was often difficult to find the animals at all, though a population of 3000–4000 Jacobitas between the first and second narrows of the Magellanstrait was registered from a plane by US-biologists, who were operating there nearly at the same time as the Duisburg team. Occasionally *Lagenorhynchus obscurus* or *L. australis* was observed. On favourable occasions more than 100 Jacobitas surrounded the boat, which was less suitable for capture and allowed us to use break away hoop nets only. Many Jacobitas were considerably infested with lice. Infection with lungworms—probably increased by the dense population—was also significant. An unscheduled interruption of home-transport was the reason for an obvious condition worsening and losses later on. (Post mortem findings s. B. Neurohr.)