

**Orinoco River Dolphin (*Inia geoffrensis humboldtiana*)
Behavioural Catalogue in controlled environment**

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Abstract

In ethological studies, the use of a clear description, classification and measurement of behaviour is crucial for achieving trustworthy and comparable results. During the EAAM Annual Symposium in the year 2006, a specific behavioural catalogue was presented by Erika Esposti Appiccino and Raffaella Tizzi for *Tursiops truncatus*. The aim was to provide a tool, supplied with both written and video explanations, able to make the behaviours' identification easier and non-ambiguous and to support quantitative research. The present contribution represents the linear continuation of that work extended to another cetacean species, *Inia geoffrensis humboldtiana*, a rare dolphin taxon characterized by fluvial habits. With procedures analogous to the previous experience, an extensive review of river dolphins' bibliography was executed while further knowledge was obtained in May 2006 by an ethological study consisting in 120 hours of observations on two adult males of this species housed at Duisburg Zoo (Germany). As a result, a total of 70 behavioural descriptions came to compose the specific behavioural catalogue of Orinoco river dolphins in controlled environment. Moreover, the wide archive of underwater video images recorded during the study was closely examined for searching clear performances of behaviours, later assembled in ideal video sequences of distinctive activities. Since conservation requires a real effort in combining and sharing materials and data on environment and species, the final step of our project consisted in making the behavioural catalogues of both *Tursiops truncatus* and *Inia geoffrensis humboldtiana* easily available to interested people. Therefore, behavioural tables and motion pictures were uploaded in the World Wide Web and are now free for downloading.