**Bryde's whale** *(Balaenoptera edeni)*

*Distribution: Almost worldwide (see map below and full list of countries in the detailed species account online at: https://wwhandbook.iwc.int/en/species/brydes-whale)*

- **Smoky grey body** – may look brown in some lights
- **Three parallel ridges** running from blowholes to the tip of the V-shaped snout
- **Skin may appear mottled with circular scars from cookie cutter sharks or parasites**
- **Slender, dorsal fin with a deeply curved trailing edge**
- **Pale underside, may appear light purple or pink during activity**
- **Tail flukes are black on top and pale underneath**
- **Streamlined body**
- **Small, slender, pointed flippers** – only 1/10th of body length
- **40-70 throat grooves that extend all the way to the umbilicus**
- **Bryde's whale off the coast of Oman. Notice the parasitic fish attached to the base of the dorsal fin.**
  - Photo courtesy Tim Collins/Environment Society Oman.

**Fun Facts**

- **Bryde's whales are named after Johan Bryde, a Norwegian whaler working in South Africa. The name should be pronounced “Broodah’s”**.
- **Bryde's whales and sei whales are difficult to distinguish and were often confused at sea and even in whaling records for many years.**


**Bryde's whale**

- **Adult length**: up to 15.5m (female)
- **Adult weight**: approximately 20,000kg (female)
- **Newborn**: 4m /680kg

**Threats**: Entanglement, habitat loss

**Habitat**: Continental shelf

**Diet**: Small schooling fish

**IUCN Conservation status**: Data Deficient

**Bryde's whales are also known as 'tropical whales' due to their distribution in tropical and temperate areas between 40° south and 40° North. There are two recognised subspecies of Bryde's whales with partially overlapping ranges: Eden's whale (*Balaenoptera edeni edeni*), and Bryde's whale (*B. e. brydei*).**

**Bryde's whales normally have fairly conspicuous blows. (3–4m high), but can also surface with almost no visible blow when resting or traveling slowly.**

**Newborn**: 4m /680kg

**As with all baleen whales, females are generally larger than males, but there is no way to distinguish them at sea.**

**Photograph showing the three distinctive almost parallel head –ridges of an inshore Bryde's whale in South Africa. Other species have only one single central ridge. Photo courtesy of Gwenith Penry.**