

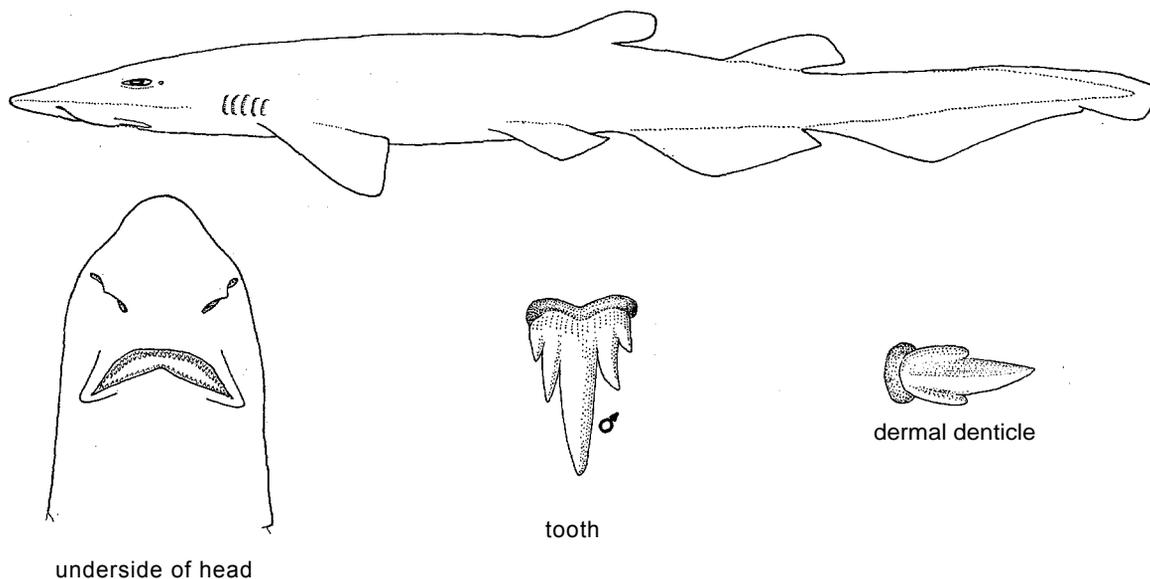
Apristurus saldanha (Barnard, 1925)

SCYL Aprist 20

Scylliorhinus saldanha Barnard, 1925, Ann.S.Afr.Mus., 2(1):44. Holotype: Apparently lost. Type Locality: Off Saldanha Bay, South Africa, 915 m depth.

Synonymy: None.

FAO Names : En - Saldanha catshark; Fr - Holbiche gatussau; Sp - Pejegato saldaña.



Field Marks : A poorly known Apristurus said to differ from other species in its very long interdorsal space, equal to the prespiracular head.

Diagnostic Features: Snout moderately long, preoral snout about 7% of total length; gill slits probably small, less than eye length; gill septa without projecting medial lobes; eyes rather small in adults, about 2.6% of total length; mouth possibly short and broadly arched, with dental bands not prominently expanded, and with lower ones falling well behind uppers; mouth and labial furrows possibly under eyes; labial furrows possibly not expanded. Interdorsal space considerably greater than first dorsal base, about equal to prespiracular space; first dorsal fin slightly smaller in area than second; origin of first dorsal about over pelvic midbases; insertion of second dorsal opposite anal insertion; anal fin long, its base about equal to prebranchial space in adults. Lateral trunk denticles probably flat. Colour slate-grey. Adults large, 81 cm.

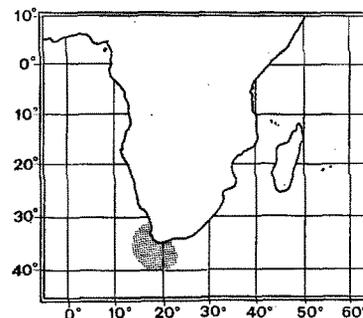
Geographical Distribution : Eastern South Atlantic: Southwestern Cape Province, South Africa.

Habitat and Biology : A poorly-known catshark of the continental slope of South Africa, type taken at 915 m depth and other, doubtfully referred specimens at 402 to 1000 m.

Size: Maximum 81 cm.

Interest to Fisheries: None.

Literature : Barnard (1925); Bass, d'Aubrey & Kistnasamy (1975); Springer (1979).



Remarks : Barnard's (1925) original description of this species was brief and not illustrated. Bass, d'Aubrey & Kistnasamy (1975x) described three small specimens (the largest 44 cm) from off Saldanha, South Africa in the British Museum (Natural History) which they ascribed to this species, but Springer (1979) thought that the relatively narrow interdorsal spaces (considerably shorter than the prespiracular head) of these specimens did not fit A. saldanha. However, a larger specimen (56 cm) from the same locality recently taken by a Soviet research vessel had a long interdorsal space about equal to the prespiracular head and may be this species (G. Golovan in Springer, 1979). As Barnard's original specimen was quite large, the possibility remains that the difference between it and the BM(NH) specimens are a matter of allometry in a single species. One of the BM(NH) specimens is illustrated above (after Bass, D'Aubrey & Kistnasamy, 1975a).

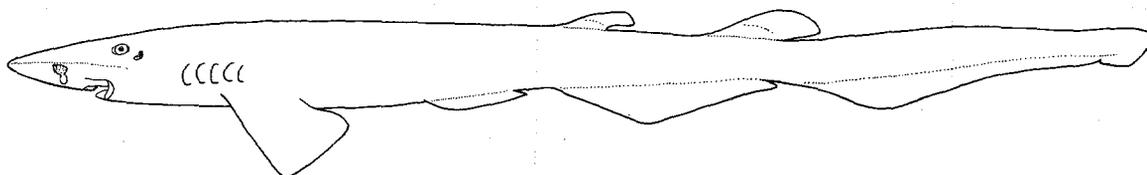
Apristurus sibogae (Weber, 1913)

SCYL Aprist 21

Scyliorhinus sibogae Weber, 1913, Siboga-Exped.Fische, 57:593. Holotype: Zoologisches Museum, Amsterdam, ZMA 111076, 210 mm immature female. Type Locality: 0°32'S, 119°39.8'E, Makassar Straits, 655 m depth.

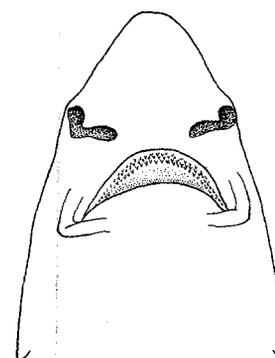
Synonymy : None.

FAO Names : En - Pale catshark; Fr - Holbiche pâle; Sp - Pejegato paliducho.



Field Marks : A reddish-white slender Apristurus with very small eyes, narrow, relatively short, pointed snout, anteriorly expanded mouth, first dorsal fin less than half area of first and with its origin well behind pelvic bases, and low, narrow anal and caudal fins.

Diagnostic Features : Body relatively slender, trunk slightly tapering toward head. Snout moderately long, narrow, and pointed, preoral snout about 8% of total length; gill slits small but about equal to eye length; gill septa without projecting medial lobes or pleats, but with deeply incised edges; eyes extremely small, about 1.7% of total length; nostrils narrow, their width about 1.3 times in internarial space; incurrent and excurrent apertures large and oval, anterior nasal flaps large and triangular; mouth moderately long, large, and broadly arched, with dental bands prominently expanded and with lower ones falling well behind uppers; mouth and labial furrows extending well in front of eyes; labial folds somewhat enlarged, with lower nearly transverse to body axis. Interdorsal space nearly twice the first dorsal base, slightly less than preorbital snout; first dorsal fin only about a third as large as second, base of second nearly twice as long as first; origin of first dorsal posterior to free rear tips of pelvics; second dorsal insertion behind anal insertion; pectoral fins small, anterior margins 9% of total length; inner margins long, nearly length of pectoral bases; interspace between pectoral and pelvic bases fairly short, slightly less than prespiracular length and about 11% of total length; pelvic fins very low and subquadrate; anal fin long, low, and angular, over 5 times as long as high, its base about equal to prepectoral space and 18% of total length in the type; caudal fin very long and narrow, presence of caudal crest of denticles uncertain. Colour reddish-white. Size of adults uncertain, only specimen 21 cm.



Underside of head

Geographical Distribution : Western South Pacific: Makassar Straits between Borneo and Sulawesi (Indonesia).

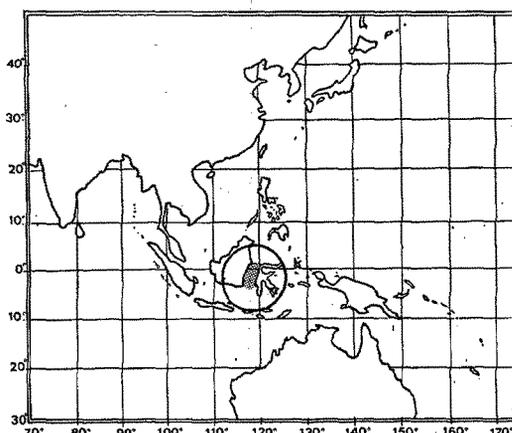
Habitat and Biology : A rare catshark, only known from the Makassar Straits slope at 655 m depth.

Size : Maximum over 21 cm (juvenile).

Interest to Fisheries : None.

Literature: Fowler (1941); Springer (1979).

Remarks : The present account and illustration is based on the writer's examination of the holotype and only known specimen. Although very small and in rather poor condition, it evidently represents a very distinct species.



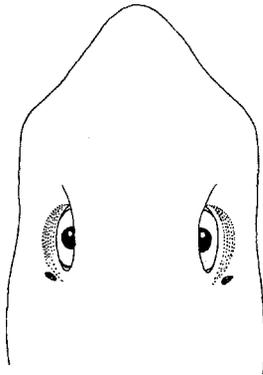
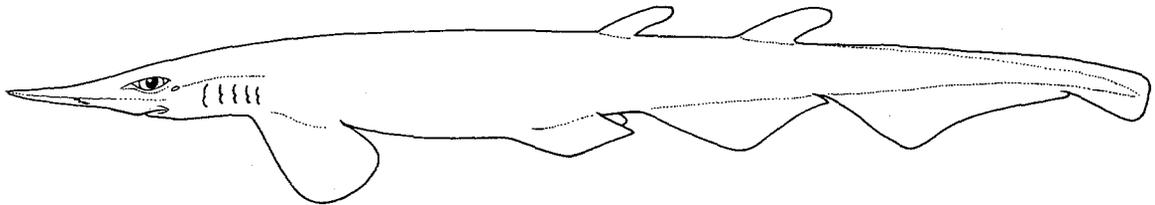
Apristurus sinensis Chu & Hu, 1981

SCYL Aprist 22

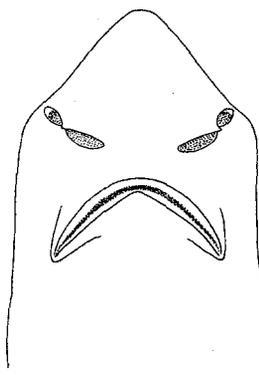
Apristurus sinensis Chu & Hu, in Chu et al., 1981, *Oceanolog.Limnolog.Sinica*, 12(2):103, fig. 1. Holotype: South China Sea Fisheries Research Institute, SCSFRS 00099, 417 mm, immature or adolescent male. Type Locality: South China Sea (off China ?) 537 m depth.

Synonymy : None.

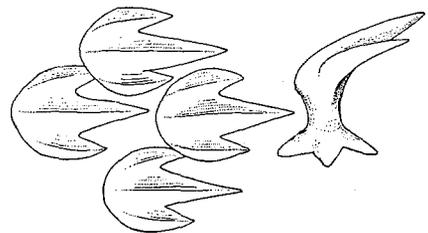
FAO Names : En - South China catshark; Fr - Holbiche chuhu; Sp - Pejegato chino.



dorsal view of head



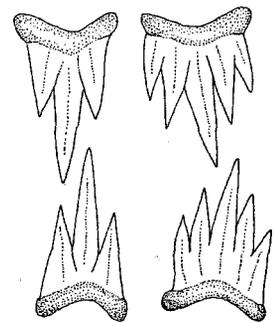
underside of head



dermal denticles

Field Marks : An *Apristurus* with a pointed, angular prenasal snout, gill septa with short medial projections, first dorsal fin about half as large as second and with its origin over last quarter of pelvic bases.

Diagnostic Features : Body relatively slender, trunk moderately tapering toward head. Snout moderately long, basally broad but distally pointed and angular, preoral snout about 10% of total length; gill slits moderate-sized, somewhat less than eye length; gill septa with small projecting medial lobes, without pleats and incised margins; eyes small in adults, about 3% of total length; nostrils broad, their width about equal to internarial space; incurrent and excurrent apertures fairly large and oval, anterior nasal flaps low and angular; mouth moderately long and large, broadly arched, with dental bands hardly expanded and with lower ones falling just behind uppers; mouth and labial furrows extending little in front of eyes; labial folds not enlarged, with lowers diagonal to body axis; mouth and teeth probably not enlarged in males. Interdorsal space about twice the first dorsal base, slightly less than preorbital snout; first dorsal fin about half as large as second, base of first dorsal about two-thirds of second; origin of first dorsal opposite last fourth of pelvic bases; second dorsal insertion well in front of anal insertion; pectoral fins rather small, anterior margins about 12% of total length; inner margins moderately long, about half the length of pectoral bases; interspace between pectoral and pelvic bases moderately long, slightly less than prebranchial length and about 16% of total length; pelvic fins low and subangular; anal fin long, fairly high, and angular, about four times as long as high, its base about equal to prebranchial space and about 17% of total length; caudal fin moderately broad but somewhat elongated, presence of dorsal crest of enlarged denticles uncertain. Lateral trunk denticles of body with crowns partly elevated and close-set, skin surface possibly with a feltlike or fuzzy texture. Colour dark, with no conspicuous markings. Adult size unknown.



upper and lower teeth

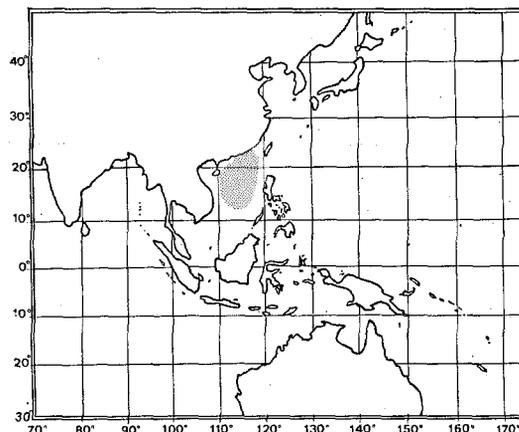
Geographical Distribution : Known only from the type locality, the South China Sea (off the Chinese coast?) in 537 m depth.

Habitat and Biology : A poorly known catshark from the South China Sea in 537 m depth, presumably caught on or near the bottom.

Size : The holotype and only known specimen is a 41.7 cm immature or adolescent male, so the species presumably reaches at least 50 cm or more total length.

Interest to Fisheries: None.

Literature : Chu *et al.* (1981).



Apristurus spongiceps (Gilbert, 1895)

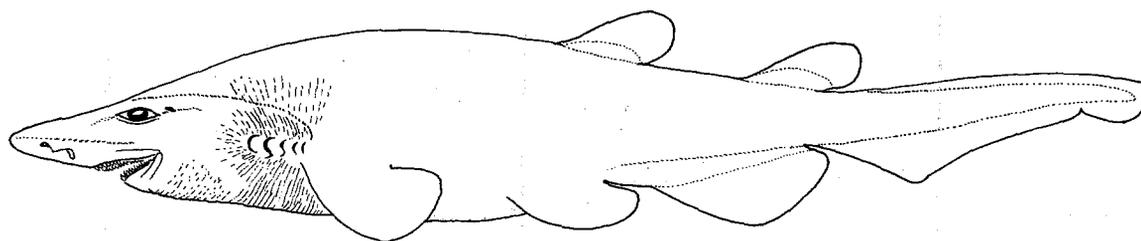
SCYL Aprist 23

Catulus spongiceps Gilbert, 1895, *Bull.U.S.Fish Comm.*, 23(sect. 2):579. Holotype: U.S. National Museum of Natural History, USNM 51590, 500 mm adult female. Type Locality: Central Pacific, near Bird Island, Hawaiian Islands, 572 to 1462 m depth.

Synonymy : None.

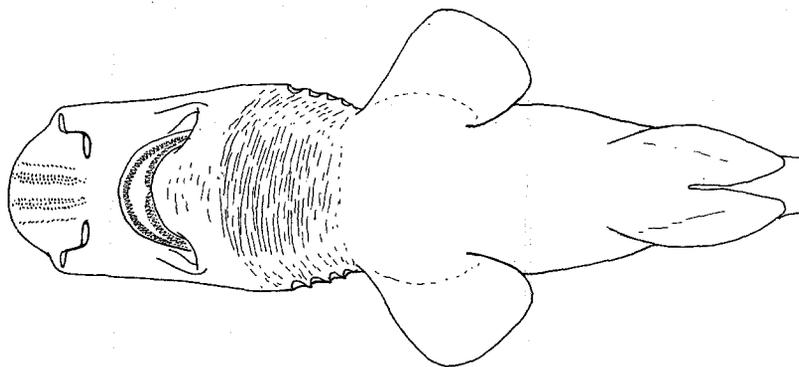
Other Scientific Names Recently in Use : Pentanchus spongiceps (see Fowler, 1941); Parapristurus spongiceps (see Springer, 1979).

FAO Names : En - Spongehead catshark; Fr - Holbiche tête molle; Sp - Pejegato esponjoso.



Field Marks : A thick-bodied, thick-headed Apristurus with pleats and grooves on the branchial region, high rounded fins, and no caudal crest.

Diagnostic Features : Body stout, trunk slightly tapering toward head. Snout moderately long and broadly rounded, preoral snout about 9% of total length; gill slits very small, much less than eye length; gill septa without projecting medial lobes and slightly incised, but covered with unique pleats and folds that extend above the gill slits and onto the throat; eyes rather small in adults, about 3% of total length; nostrils broad, their width about equal to internarial space; incurrent and excurrent apertures rather narrow and slitlike, anterior nasal flaps large and triangular; mouth long, large, and broadly arched, with dental bands prominently expanded and with lower ones falling far behind uppers; mouth and labial furrows extending well in front of eyes; labial folds enlarged, with lowers nearly transverse to body axis. Interdorsal space slightly greater than first dorsal base, slightly less than preorbital snout; first dorsal fin about as large as second, bases about equally long; origin of first dorsal slightly anterior to pelvic midbases; second dorsal insertion behind anal insertion; pectoral fins rather small, anterior margins about 11% of total length; inner margins long, two-thirds length of pectoral bases; interspace between pectoral and pelvic bases short, slightly greater than preorbital length and about 11% of total length in adults; pelvic fins high and broadly rounded; anal fin short, high, and rounded, slightly more than twice as long as high, its base slightly greater than the prespiracular space and 13% of total length in adults; caudal fin moderately broad, without a dorsal crest of



partial ventral view

enlarged denticles. Lateral trunk denticles of body with crowns erect and fairly close-set, skin surface with a feltlike or fuzzy texture. Colour dark brown, without conspicuous markings on fins. Adults moderately large, adult female 50 cm.

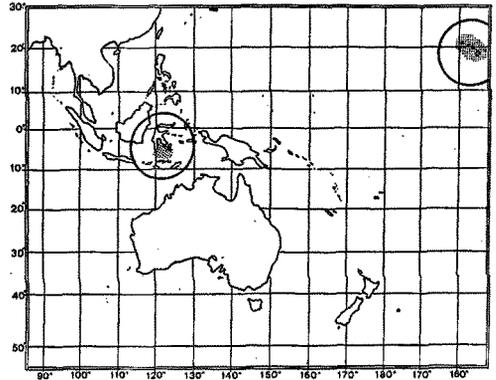
Geographical Distribution : Central Pacific: Hawaiian Islands.
Western South Pacific: Banda Sea off southern Sulawesi.

Habitat and Biology : A rare shark known from two specimens taken on the insular slopes, on or near the bottom at 572 to 1482 m depth. Probably oviparous; the holotype is a gravid female.

Size : The holotype was adult at 50 cm.

Interest to Fisheries: None.

Literature : Fowler (1934, 1941); Springer (1979).



Remarks: The above diagnosis and illustration is based on the writer's examination of the holotype. Weber (1913) referred a 105 mm juvenile Apristurus from the Banda Sea to this species, which was accepted by Fowler (1941) and Springer (1979). The writer examined this specimen in the collections of the Zoologisch Museum of Amsterdam (ZMA 111.403, Banda Sea, 5°40.7'S, 120°45.5'E, 1158 m depth). Although much smaller and slenderer than the holotype, it is generally similar and has the same unique pleated gills; and is placed in A. spongiceps despite the great distance between the two localities. Springer (1979) included this species in a separate genus, Parapristurus, but I follow Fowler (1941) and Bigelow & Schroeder (1948) in retaining it in Apristurus (see remarks under genus Apristurus for a discussion of this problem).

Apristurus stenseni (Springer, 1979)

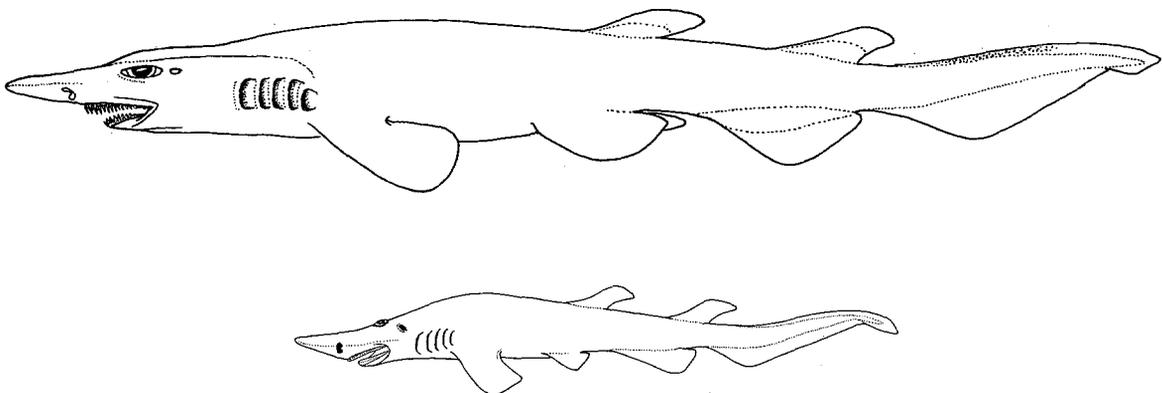
SCYL April 24

Parmaturus stenseni Springer, 1979, NOAA Tech.Rep.NMFS Circ. (422):104, figs 64-66. Holotype: Universitetets Zoologiske Museum, Copenhagen, Denmark, ZMK Galathea. 739-1, 185 mm immature male. Type Locality: 07°22'N, 79°32'W, Gulf of Panama, eastern North Pacific, 915 to 975 m.

Synonymy : None.

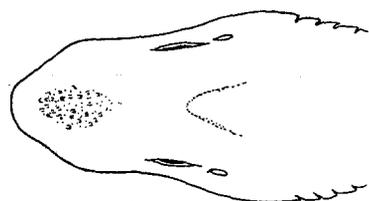
Other Scientific Names Recently in Use : Parmaturus stenseni Springer, 1979.

FAO Names: En - Panama ghost catshark; Fr - Holbiche nébuleuse; Sp - Pejegato panameño.

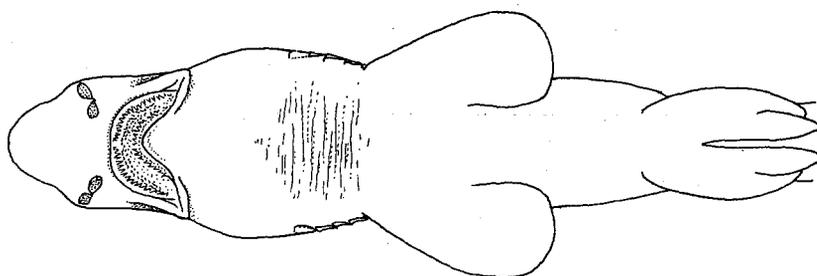


holotype, after Springer (1979)

Field Marks : A slender, very small-eyed Apristurus with very large gill slits, a broad internarial and small nostrils, an extremely large, anteriorly expanded mouth, first dorsal origin about over pelvic midbases, an anal fin between 3 and 4 times as long as high, dark coloration with no conspicuous markings, and a long, low caudal fin with a prominent dorsal crest of denticles.



dorsal view of head



partial ventral view

Diagnostic Features : Body relatively slender, trunk slightly tapering toward head. Snout moderately long, broad, bell-shaped, and slightly pointed, preoral snout about 5 to 8% of total length; gill slits very large, somewhat greater than eye length; gill septa without projecting medial lobes or pleats and apparently not incised; eyes rather small, between 2 and 3% of total length; nostrils narrow, their width about 1.8 times in internarial space; mouth long, large, and broadly arched, with dental bands prominently expanded and with lower ones falling well behind uppers; mouth and labial furrows extending well in front of eyes; labial folds somewhat enlarged, with lower nearly transverse to body axis. Interdorsal space nearly or quite twice the first dorsal base, slightly less than preorbital snout; first dorsal fin slightly smaller than second, base of first about 3/4 the length of second; origin of first dorsal about over pelvic midbases; second dorsal insertion behind anal insertion; pectoral fins rather small, anterior margins about 6 to 13% of total length; inner margins long, nearly length of pectoral bases; interspace between pectoral and pelvic bases moderately long, slightly less or greater than prespiracular length and about 10 to 13% of total length; pelvic fins high and angular; anal fin short, fairly high, and rounded, between 3 and 4 times as long as high, its base about equal to prespiracular space and 10 to 15% of total length; caudal fin very long and narrow (in young at least), a well-developed crest of enlarged denticles on dorsal caudal margin. Lateral trunk denticles of body with crowns unicuspid, needle-like, and wide-spaced, surface probably with a feltlike or fuzzy texture. Colour blackish, without conspicuous markings on fins. Adult size unknown.

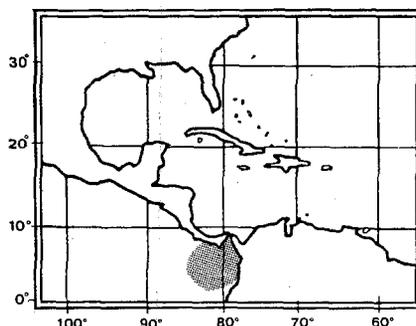
Geographical Distribution : Eastern North Pacific: Pacific Panama from Gulf of Panama and Panama Bay.

Habitat and Biology : A poorly known shark of the eastern Pacific continental slope, found at 915 to 975 m depth.

Size : Maximum over 23 cm; males may mature at or above 20.8 cm total length.

Interest to Fisheries: None.

Literature : Springer (1979).



Remarks : The account of this species is based on Springer (1979). This shark is close to *A. kampae* but apparently distinguishable from it by several characters (see key to species). It also closely resembles an *Apristurus* known from adult sharks taken off the Galapagos Islands and Peru. These also have a dorsal crest of denticles and might be conspecific with *A. stenseni*, but differ in having smaller gills and larger eyes, a short, broader caudal fin, a less anteriorly expanded mouth, and a more domed head. They may also represent a new species.

Springer (1979) placed this species in the genus *Parmaturus*, subgenus *Compagnoia*, along with his new *P. manis*. These are transferred to *Apristurus* (see remarks under genus *Apristurus*).

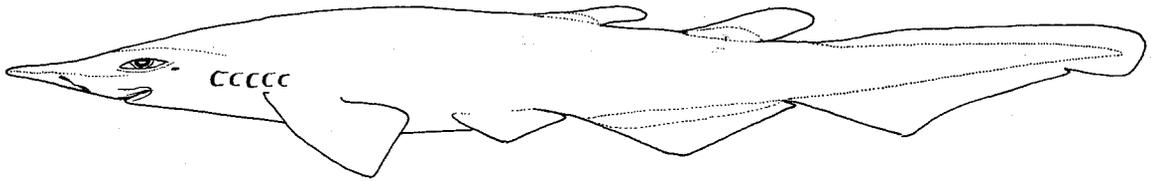
Apristurus verweyi (Fowler, 1934)

SCYL April 25

Pentanchus verweyi Fowler, 1934, *Proc.Acad.Nat.Sci.Philad.*, 85:237, fig. 2. Holotype: U.S. National Museum 93135, 297 mm immature male. Type Locality: 4°10.5'N, 118°37.1'E, Sipadan Island, vicinity of Sibuko Bay, southern Sulawesi.

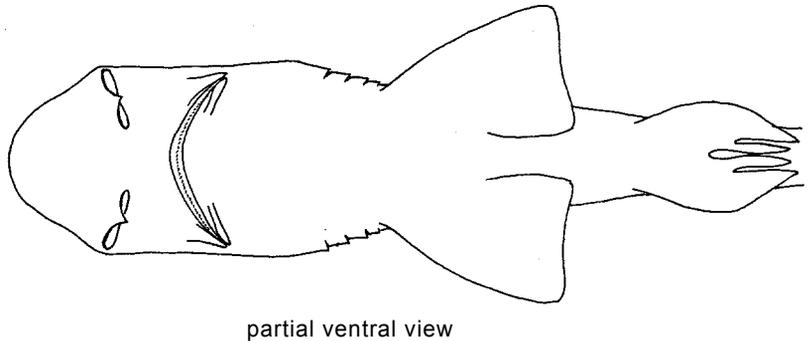
Synonymy : None.

FAO Names: En - Borneo catshark; Fr - Holbiche malaise; Sp - Pejegato de Borneo.



Field Marks : One of several Apristurus with the first dorsal fin half the area of the second or less. For other characters see diagnostic features and key to species.

Diagnostic Features : Body slender, tapering gradually to head. Snout long, very broad, and bell-shaped, preoral snout about 11% of total length; gill slits small, much less than eye length; gill septa without projecting medial lobes or pleats but deeply incised; eyes small, about 4% of total length; nostrils broad, their width about equal to interocular space; incurrent and excurrent apertures small and oval, anterior nasal flaps low and angular; mouth short, moderately large, and very broadly arched, with dental bands not expanded and with lower ones falling just behind uppers; mouth and labial furrows below eyes; labial folds not enlarged, with lowers diagonal to body axis. Interdorsal space about a third greater than first dorsal base, two-thirds of preorbital snout; first dorsal fin about half the area of second, base of first about three-fourths the length of second; origin of first dorsal slightly behind pelvic insertions; second dorsal insertion well in front of anal insertion; pectoral fins rather small, anterior margins about 12% of total length; inner margins long, nearly length of pectoral bases; interspace between pectoral and pelvic bases short, slightly less than preorbital length and about 10% of total length; pelvic fins low and angular; anal fin moderately long, low and angular, slightly more than 4 times as long as high, its base about equal to prebranchial space and 18% of total length; caudal fin elongated and fairly broad, without a crest of enlarged denticles on dorsal caudal margin. Lateral trunk denticles of body with crowns fairly flat and close-set, surface fairly smooth and not with a feltlike or fuzzy texture. Colour dark brown without conspicuous white margins on fins. Adult size unknown.



partial ventral view

Geographical Distribution : Known only from the type locality (Sipadan Island, vicinity of Sibuko Bay, southern Sulawesi (Celebes)).

Habitat and Biology : A rare, deepwater catshark, known only from the holotype.

Size : Over 29.7 cm maximum.

Interest to Fisheries: None.

Literature : Fowler (1934, 1941); Springer (1979).

Remarks : The above account and illustration is based on the writer's examination of the holotype. Springer (1979) noted that this species may be a synonym of A. platyrhynchus, but hesitated to synonymize it; A. verweyi is provisionally retained here.

