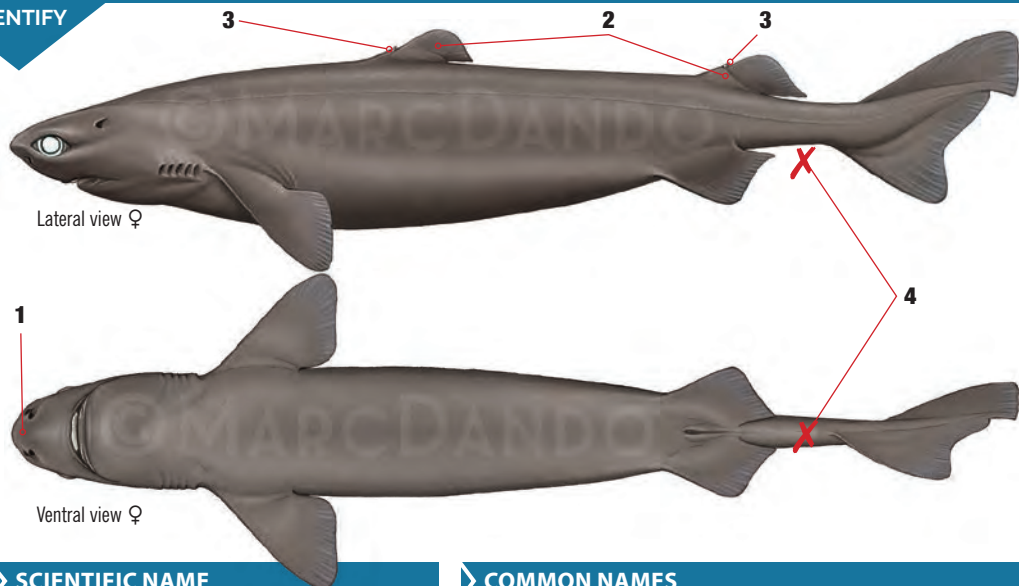


PORTUGUESE DOGFISH

Centroscyrnus coelolepis

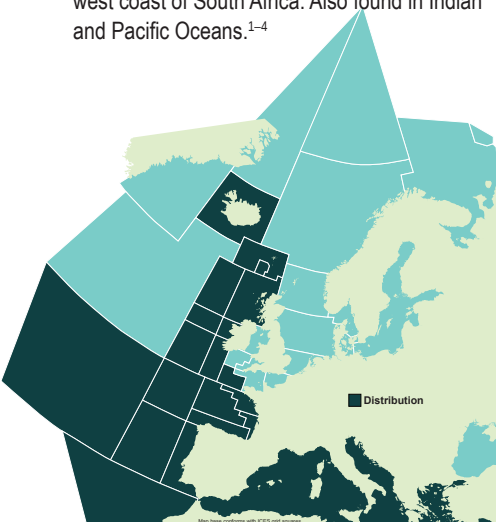


SCIENTIFIC NAME

Centroscyrnus coelolepis Barbosa du Bocage & de Brito Capello, 1864

DISTRIBUTION

Patchy worldwide distribution. Eastern Atlantic from Iceland to Sierra Leone, including Azores, Madeira, Canary Islands and western Mediterranean Sea. Recorded off Namibia and west coast of South Africa. Also found in Indian and Pacific Oceans.¹⁻⁴



COMMON NAMES

PORTUGUESE DOGFISH, Siki Shark, Portugiesenhai (DEU), Pailona (ESP), Pailona Commun (FRA), Squalo Portoghese (ITA), Portugese Ijshaai (NLD), Carochos (PRT).

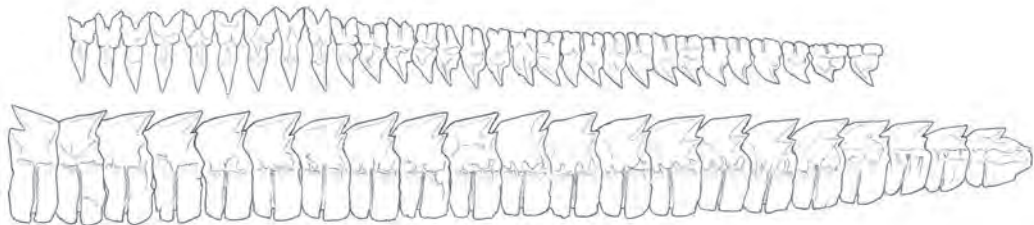
IDENTIFICATION AND COLOUR

- 1 Stocky body with short snout.^{3,4}
 - 2 Small, equal-sized dorsal fins, second close to caudal fin.^{3,4}
 - 3 Very small spine present on each dorsal fin, spines sometimes not obviously visible.^{3,4}
 - 4 No anal fin.⁴
- Uniform black/brown to golden brown.^{3,4}

SIZE AND BIOLOGY

- Birth: 23–35cm.
- Matures: female 95–110cm; male 85–100cm.
- Max. TL: 122cm.^{3,4}
- Age at maturity est.: 15 years. Max. age est. 60 years.¹
- Viviparous, females give birth year-round; litters of 1–29 pups (avg. 12–14).^{3,4}
- Feeds on teleosts, cephalopods, other sharks, gastropods and crabs. Known to take plugs of flesh from live cetaceans and pinnipeds.^{3,4}

TEETH



- Upper jaw: 43–68; slender, lanceolate teeth.^{3,4}
- Lower jaw: 29–42; short teeth with oblique cusps.^{3,4}

SIMILAR SPECIES



Longnose Velvet Dogfish *Centroselachus crepidater*



Kitefin Shark *Dalatias licha*



Knifetooth Dogfish *Scymnodon ringens*



Velvet Dogfish *Zameus squamulosus*

HABITAT

- Deepwater demersal shark on continental slopes and upper and middle abyssal rises; from 128–3,675m, mostly deeper than 400m.^{1,3,4}
- Recorded at temperatures ranging from 5–13°C.⁴
- Segregates by size and sex with depth; pregnant females inhabit shallower waters, smaller individuals in deeper water.^{1,3–5}

CONSERVATION STATUS*

- IUCN Red List: Global: Near Threatened (2003)
Europe: Endangered (2015)
Mediterranean: Least Concern (2016)
- Continued bycatch in multispecies fisheries has resulted in an estimated >80% decline of the Northeast Atlantic population over the past 100 years. This shark exhibits low fecundity and discard survival is likely to be low.^{1,2,4}

COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

- Historically targeted in trawl and line fisheries for human consumption, squalene-rich liver oil and fishmeal.^{1,4}
- Continues to be taken as bycatch in deepwater fisheries targeting other demersal species.^{1,4}

MANAGEMENT*

- Subject to prohibitions under the CFP, RFMO and FNA regulations.

REFERENCES

- 1 Dureuil & Jung. 2015.
- 2 Dureuil & Jung. 2016.
- 3 Ebert *et al.* 2013.
- 4 Ebert & Stehmann. 2013.
- 5 Moura *et al.* 2014.