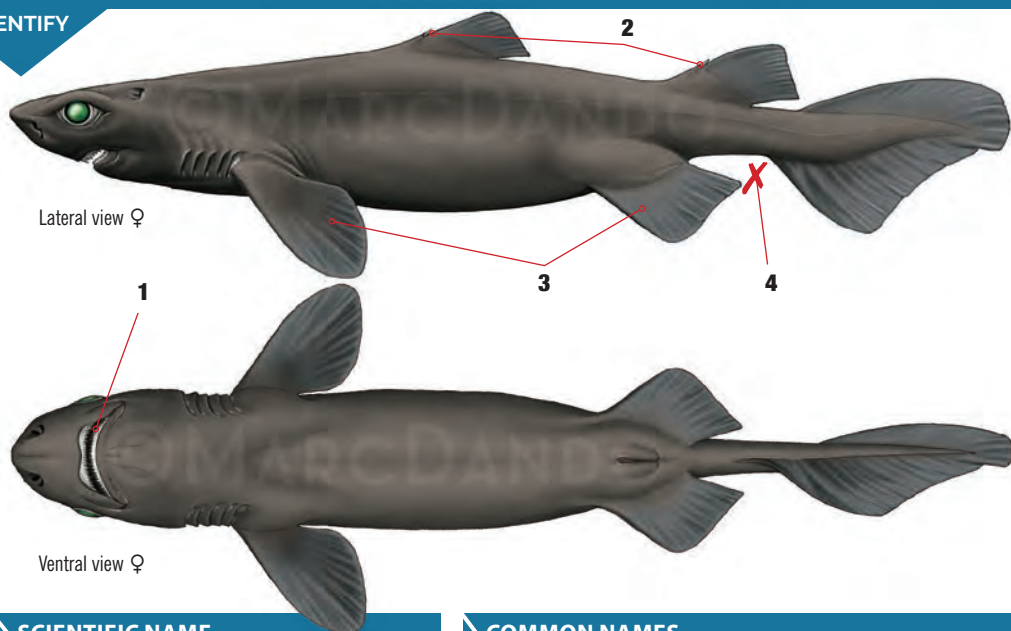


KNIFETOOTH DOGFISH

Scymnodon ringens

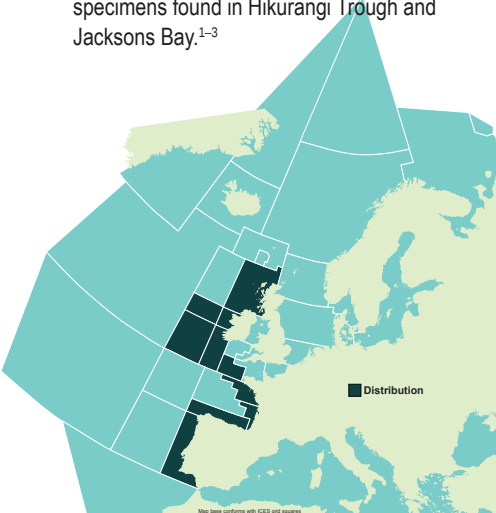


SCIENTIFIC NAME

Scymnodon ringens Barbosa du Bocage & de Brito Capello, 1864

DISTRIBUTION

Eastern Atlantic slope from Scotland to Portugal, and off Mauritania and Senegal. Reported in New Zealand from three specimens found in Hikurangi Trough and Jacksons Bay.¹⁻³



COMMON NAMES

KNIFETOOTH DOGFISH, Messerzahnhai (DEU), Bruja (ESP), Squale-grogneur Commun (FRA), Cagnolo Atlantico (ITA), Mestandijshaai (NLD), Arreganhada (PRT).

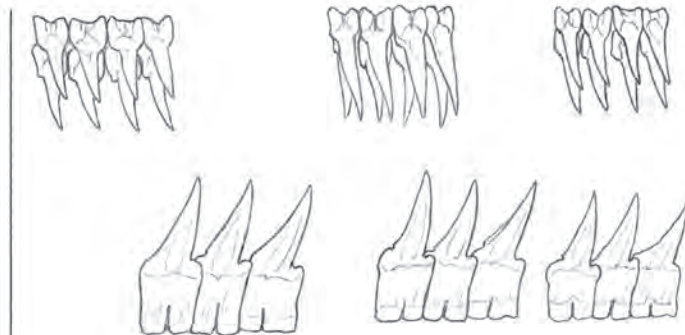
IDENTIFICATION AND COLOUR

- 1 Mouth very wide and broadly arched.^{1,2}
 - 2 Second dorsal fin longer and taller than first; each with small dorsal spines.¹
 - 3 Large pectoral and pelvic fins.^{1,3}
 - 4 Do anal fin.^{1,3}
- Uniform chocolate brown to black in colour.¹⁻³

SIZE AND BIOLOGY

- Max. TL: 110cm.¹⁻³
- Reproduction and life history of this shark is poorly known. Thought to be ovoviviparous.^{1,2,4}
- Dentition suggests the ability to attack and dismember relatively large prey.^{1,3}

TEETH



- Upper jaw: 50; small, lanceolate teeth without cusplets.¹⁻³
- Lower jaw: 29, large, triangular, blade-like cutting teeth.¹⁻³

SIMILAR SPECIES



Black Dogfish *Centroscyllium fabricii*



Portuguese Dogfish *Centrosymnus coelolepis*



Kitefin Shark *Dalatias licha*

HABITAT

- Deepwater demersal shark; continental slopes from 200–1,600m in temperate and subtropical waters.¹

CONSERVATION STATUS*

- IUCN Red List: Global: Data Deficient (2009)
Europe: Least Concern (2015)
- A little known deepwater shark. Its depth range may afford it some protection from current fisheries. Surveys carried out in the Porcupine Bank from 2001–2012 estimated that abundance and biomass for this shark was stable or increasing.^{4,5}

COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

- No targeted fisheries exist for the Knifetooth Dogfish. Taken as bycatch in deepwater trawls, line gear and fixed bottom net fisheries.^{2,4,5}
- Where retained, this shark is used for human consumption and processed for fish meal.^{2,4,5}

MANAGEMENT*

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

REFERENCES

- 1 Ebert *et al.* 2013.
- 2 Ebert & Stehmann. 2013.
- 3 Roberts *et al.* 2015.
- 4 Blasdale & Valenti. 2009.
- 5 Valenti *et al.* 2015.