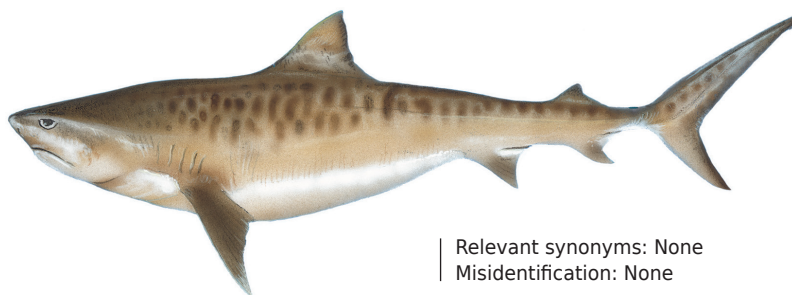


CARCHARHINIDAE

requiem sharks

Galeocerdo cuvier

(Peron and LeSueur, 1822)



Drawing: Tuvia Kurz

Relevant synonyms: None
Misidentification: None

SHORT DESCRIPTION

Body stout from head until pelvic fins, then becoming slender. Large head, with short and rounded snout. Small nostrils. Eyes of moderate size; slit-like spiracles located almost one-half orbit diameter behind eyes. First row of teeth with 10-11 teeth on each side of the jaw. Usually 18-26/18-25 rows of teeth. Teeth similarly shaped in upper and lower jaws, with deep notches and serration, with oblique bent cusps. Interdorsal ridge present. Precaudal pit present at the dorsal base of the caudal fin. Prominent dermal keel on each side of the lower caudal peduncle. First dorsal fin triangular; its midbase closer to pectoral fin than to pelvic fin. Small second dorsal fin, its origin in front of anal fin origin. Upper lobe of caudal fin slender and pointed. Lower lobe of caudal fin rounded in juvenile, becoming pointed in adult. Pectoral fin broad and falcate, its origin under the third to fourth gill slit.

color: brown-gray with distinct dark spots and bars on dorsal surface in young specimens. These unique marks fade in adults. Ventral surface light gray to white.

common size: adult up to 5.5 m (max. 8 m).

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

Other *Carcharhinidae*: lack of spiracles; upper jaw labial has short furrows and does not reach the front of eye. No lateral keel on caudal peduncle.

Lamnidae: pointed snout, no dark marks on body.

Squalidae: no anal fin.

Hexanchidae: single dorsal fin; six or seven gill slits.

Triakidae: no precaudal pit.

BIOLOGY / ECOLOGY

Ovoviviparous. Number of young is 10-80 per litter, depending on the size of the female. Gestation period is close to 1 year. Newborn size is 50-70 cm. Age of maturation is 4-6 years, when size reaches 230-350 cm. Considered to be the most generalist of all sharks in its trophic requirements. Its diet includes invertebrates, fish, birds, marine mammals and a great variety of food of anthropogenic origin.

habitat: inhabits a wide range of habitats, from shallow waters to depths of 150 m. Often enters rivers and estuaries, also swims offshore as a pelagic species. Active during day and night.

DISTRIBUTION

Worldwide: circumglobal in tropical and temperate waters.

Mediterranean: recorded first off Malagá, Spain (Pinto de la Rosa, 1994), then in Messina, Italy (Celona, 2000), Libya (Tobuni *et al.*, 2016)

MODE OF INTRODUCTION

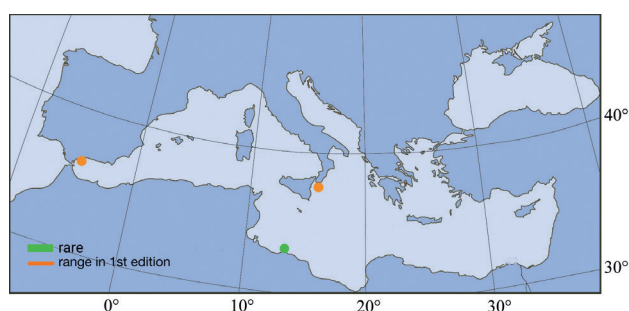
Probably via Gibraltar.

ESTABLISHMENT SUCCESS

Very rare; only two substantiated records in the Mediterranean.

IMPORTANCE TO HUMANS

None in Mediterranean. Elsewhere important species in commercial fisheries ; large demand for its meat (shark fin soup...) and its teeth (jewelry industry). Considered the most dangerous of sharks in tropical waters ; many attacks of tiger sharks have been recorded also in temperate areas, where it is considered second only to the great white shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*) in danger.



1st Med. record
Malagá, 1987.

KEY REFERENCES

- Celona A. 2000. First record of a Tiger shark, *Galeocerdo cuvier* (Peron and LeSueur, 1822) in the Italian waters. *Annales for Istrian and Mediterranean Studies, Series Historia Naturalis*, 10, 2 (21): 207-210 (Slovenia).
- Pinto de la Rosa F.J. 1994. Tiburones del mar de Alboran. Servicio publicaciones Centro de Ediciones de la Diputacion de Malagá. (CEDMA).
- Tobuni I.M., Ben-Abdalla R.B., Serena F. and Shakman E.A. 2016. First documented presence of *Galeocerdo cuvier* (Péron and Lesueur, 1822) (Elasmobranchii, Carcharhinidae) in the Mediterranean basin (Libyan waters). *Marine Biodiversity Records* 9(94): 5pp.