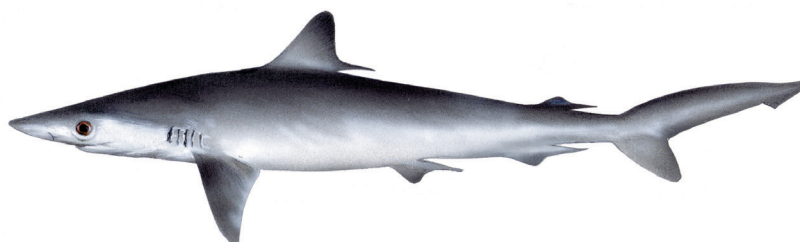


CARCHARHINIDAE

requiem sharks

Rhizoprionodon acutus

(Rüppell, 1838)



Drawing: Tuvia Kurz

Relevant synonyms: *Carcharias acutus*, *Scoliodon sorrakow*.
Misidentification: None

SHORT DESCRIPTION

Elongated body with pointed snout (the segment before nostrils 4.4 - 5.1 % of total length). Teeth in 25/24 rows, characterized by a large base and one cusp, with medial side oblique, lateral side almost vertical, over a serrated basal extension. First dorsal fin origin over the posterior margin of pectoral fins; second dorsal fin smaller than anal fin, its origin behind the origin of anal fin.

color: grey or grey-brown, pale or whitish on ventral surfaces; pectoral fins with a light margin.

common size: most adults less than 1 m (max. 178 cm in males; 165 cm in females).

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

This shark is distinguished from all other Mediterranean species of the genus *Carcharhinus* by the position of the origin of its second dorsal fin, which begins behind the origin of the anal fin.

* Note: the English vernacular name "milk shark" refers to the use of its flesh to promote lactation (Compagno, 1984).

BIOLOGY / ECOLOGY

Viviparous, number of young generally 2 to 5 per litter, after a gestation period of about one year. Maturation at age 2. Feeds on a variety of fish and invertebrates. Harmless to man, given its small size.

habitat: abundant in inshore and offshore waters from the beach to a depth of ca. 200 m.

DISTRIBUTION

Worldwide: eastern Atlantic, from Madeira to Angola. Indian Ocean and west Pacific, Red Sea, East Africa, India, Indonesia, China, Japan and North-East Australia.

Mediterranean: recorded in Gulf of Taranto, Ionian Sea (Pastore and Tortonese, 1985); southeastern Mediterranean Sea (Damalas and Megalofonou, 2012), off Zarzis (southern Tunisian coast) (Ben Amor *et al.*, 2016); Adriatic Sea (Albanian waters) (Bakiu, 2019).

MODE OF INTRODUCTION

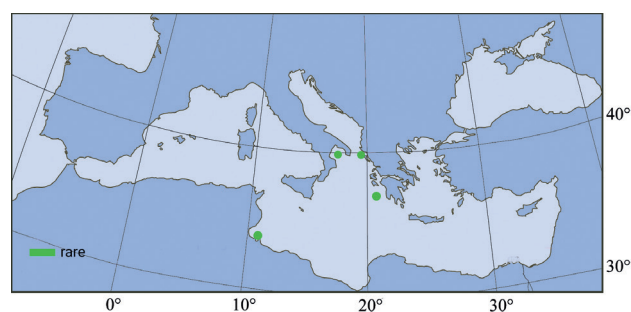
Probably via Gibraltar.

ESTABLISHMENT SUCCESS

Rare. Four specimens recorded in the Mediterranean.

IMPORTANCE TO HUMANS

None in the Mediterranean but of commercial importance throughout its range elsewhere.



1st Med. record
Gulf of Taranto,
Ionian Sea, 1985.

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- Damalas D., Megalofonou P. 2012. Occurrences of large sharks in the open waters of the southeastern Mediterranean Sea. *Journal of Natural History*, 46 (43-44): 2701-2723.
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