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First record of the false catshark, *Pseudotriakis microdon*, from Australian seas

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The shark family Pseudotriakidae is distributed worldwide, mainly in deep waters of continental slopes. Two species were formerly recognised, but Compagno (1984) placed the Indo-Pacific *Pseudotriakis acrales* Jordan and Snyder, 1904 in the synonymy of the Atlantic *P. microdon* Capello, 1868.

The known distribution of *P. microdon* consists of widely scattered, mainly Northern Hemisphere locations, including off the northeastern United States, Iceland, France, Portugal, Madeira, Azores, Senegal, Cape Verde Islands, Japan, Taiwan, and the Hawaiian Islands. Prior to the first Australian record reported below, the only locations in the Southern Hemisphere were New Zealand and the Aldabra Islands group, just north of Madagascar.

Most of the specimens taken thus far were captured by deep-set longlines or occasionally by bottom trawlers. Depth of capture ranged between 200 and 1500 metres.

The first Australian record reported herein was captured on 10 August 1994 by the South Australian trawler "Lucky S". It was fishing for orange roughy (*Hoplostethus atlanticus*) on the continental shelf in the extreme southwestern corner of Australia off Cape Leeuwin (approximately 35°00'S, 114°45'E). Depth of capture was 830 m and a bottom temperature of 6° C was recorded.

The trawler's crew did not recognise the unusual catch and it was taken back to Albany. Fortunately, Mr Mike Jones, of Allerton Bait Supplies, notified the Albany Residency Museum. Val Milne, Head Curator of the institution, arranged to have it frozen and shipped to the Western Australian Museum in Perth.

The shark was photographed, preserved in formalin, and is now lodged in the collection of the Western Australian Museum (registration number P.30826–001).

Compagno (1984, part 2) provided diagnostic information, an outline drawing, and a brief summary of the biology of *P. microdon*. In part 1 of this same work he gave detailed illustrations of the measurements and explained the terminology which is used in the following paragraph.

The following measurements (in cm) were recorded when the specimen was freshly thawed: total length 200.0; precaudal length 174.0; prenarial length 10.7; preoral length 10.1; preorbital length 14.5; prespiracular length 22.3; prebranchial length 34.0; head length 44.5; prepectoral length 45.5; prepelvic length 127.0; vent-caudal length 87.0; pre-first dorsal length 86.0; pre-second dorsal length 148.0; interdorsal space 22.0; dorsal–caudal space 8.3; pelvic-anal space 17.5; anal-caudal space 6.2; eye length 4.6; eye height 2.2; interorbital space 14.0; nostril width 2.7; internarial space 10.7; anterior nasal flap length 0.8; mouth length 8.0; mouth width 23.8; first gill slit height 4.3; second gill slit height 4.9; third gill slit height 4.9; fourth gill slit height 4.8; fifth gill slit height 3.7; caudal peduncle height 9.6; girth 74.5; pectoral anterior margin 23.8; pectoral base 11.3; pectoral height 23.8; pelvic anterior margin 14.4; pelvic base 13.8; pelvic height 14.4; pelvic inner margin length 7.2; pelvic posterior margin length 12.7; first dorsal anterior margin 45.0; first dorsal base 41.5; first dorsal height 5.8; first dorsal inner margin 4.1; second dorsal anterior margin 29.4; second dorsal base 29.0; second dorsal height 15.8; second dorsal inner margin 4.1; second dorsal posterior margin

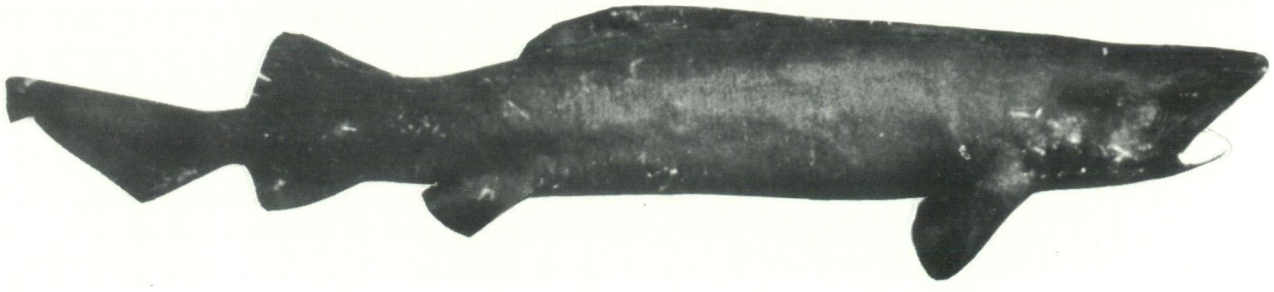

Figure 1 *Pseudotriakis microdon*, 200 cm TL, off Cape Leeuwin, Western Australia.

14.7; anal length 22.5; anal anterior margin 19.4; anal base 19.0; anal height 9.8; anal inner margin 4.1; anal posterior margin 9.9; dorsal caudal margin 39.0; preventral caudal margin 19.0; posterior caudal margin 29.0; terminal caudal margin 8.5; subocular pocket depth 0.8; second dorsal origin-anal origin 8.8; intergill length 12.1; abdomen height 29.5; tail height 18.0; pelvic-caudal space 41.0; subterminal caudal margin 6.9; pectoral-pelvic space 69.0; spiracle height 4.1; spiracle width 1.5.

An examination of the stomach of the specimen revealed no discernable food items as digestion had reduced all contents to a liquid.

REFERENCE

Compagno, L.J.V. (1984). *FAO species catalogue. Vol.4. Sharks of the World. An anotated and illustrated catalogue of shark species known to date.* Parts 1 and 2. FAO Fish. Synop.,(125) Vol.4, parts 1–2: 1–655.

Manuscript received 26 August 1994; accepted 22 December 1994.

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Numbers should be spelled out from one to nine in descriptive text; figures used for 10 or more. For associated groups, figures should be used consistently, e.g. 5 to 10, not five to 10.

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