

Order CARCHARHINIFORMES

Weasel Sharks

Family HEMIGALEIDAE

Hasse 1878



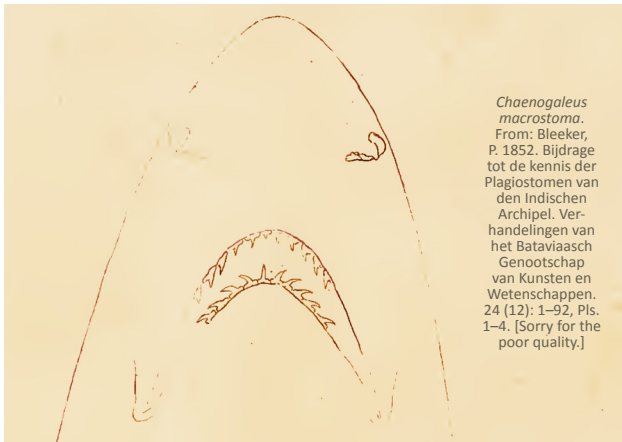
*Hemigaleus australiensis*, holotype, male, 919 mm TL. From: White, W. T., P. R. Last and L. J. V. Compagno. 2005. Description of a new species of weasel shark, *Hemigaleus australiensis* n. sp. (Carcharhiniformes: Hemigaleidae) from Australian waters. Zootaxa 1077: 37–49.

**Chaenogaleus**

Gill 1862

*chaeno-*, from *chaínō* (Gr. χαίνω), yawn or gape, referring to “rictus as long as wide”; *galeus*, from *galeós* (Gr. γαλέος), weasel, used by Aristotle for the name of a small shark or dogfish, perhaps alluding to the pointed snouts, swift movements and/or rapacious feeding behavior of smaller predatory sharks<sup>1</sup>), but in this case probably an allusion to *Hemigaleus*, original genus of *C. macrostoma*

**Chaenogaleus macrostoma** (Bleeker 1852) large-mouthed, from *makrós* (Gr. μακρός), large or long, and *stóma* (Gr. στόμα), mouth, referring to its long, greatly arched mouth compared with *Hemigaleus microstoma*, its presumed congener at the time



*Chaenogaleus macrostoma*. From: Bleeker, P. 1852. Bijdrage tot de kennis der Plagiostomen van den Indischen Archipel. Verhandelingen van het Bataviaasch Genootschap van Kunsten en Wetenschappen. 24 (12): 1–92, Pls. 1–4. [Sorry for the poor quality.]

**Hemigaleus**

Bleeker 1852

*hemi-*, from *hémisys* (Gr. ἡμισυς), half, referring to similarity to and/or close affinity with *Galeus* (now in Pentanchidae)

**Hemigaleus australiensis** White, Last & Compagno 2005 *-ensis*, Latin suffix denoting place: referring to its occurrence off tropical Australia

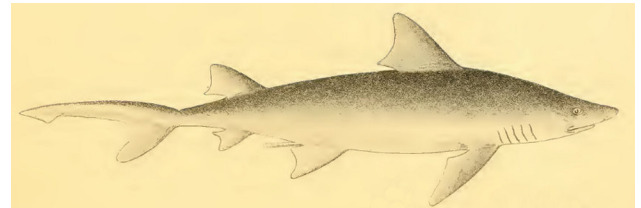
**Hemigaleus microstoma** Bleeker 1852 small-mouthed, from *mikrós* (Gr. μικρός), small, and *stóma* (Gr. στόμα), mouth, referring to its very short arched mouth compared with *Chaenogaleus macrostoma*, its presumed congener at the time

**Hemipristis**

Agassiz 1835

*hemi-*, from *hémisys* (Gr. ἡμισυς), half; *pristis*, from *pristēs* (Gr. πρίστης), sawyer (but here likely meaning saw), allusion not explained, possibly referring to how marginal serrations of teeth of *H. serra* (type species, a fossil) do not extend over the entire length of each tooth [name dates to 1835 plate and not to 1843 description]

**Hemipristis elongata** (Klunzinger 1871) Latin for prolonged, referring to its long and slim body



Possibly first-published full-body image of *Hemipristis elongata* (as *Carcharias ellioti*). From: Day, F. 1878. The fishes of India, being a natural history of the fishes known to inhabit the seas and fresh waters of India, Burma, and Ceylon. Part 4: i–xx + 553–778, Pls. 139–195.

**Paragaleus**

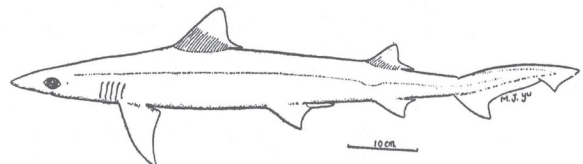
Budker 1935

*pará* (Gr. παρά), near, referring to how its dentition is intermediate between *Hemigaleus* and the triakid *Eugaleus* (= *Galeorhinus*)

**Paragaleus leucolomatus** Compagno & Smale 1985 *leuco-*, from *leukós* (Gr. λευκός), white; *lomatus*, artificially Latinized adjective derived from *lōma* (Gr. λῶμα), hem, fringe or border, referring to the prominent white tips and margins of most fins

**Paragaleus longicaudatus** (Bessednov 1966) *longus* (L.), long; *caudatus* (L.), tailed, referring to long caudal fin equal to interdorsal distance [sometimes known as *P. randalli*, a junior synonym]

**Paragaleus pectoralis** (Garman 1906) Latin for pectoral, allusion not explained, possibly referring to its characteristic falciform pectoral fins



*Paragaleus tengi*, syntype, male. From: Chen, J. T. F. 1963. A review of the sharks of Taiwan. Biological Bulletin, Tunghai University, Department of Biology, College of Science, Ichthyology Series No. 1: 1–102.

<sup>1</sup> Strömberg, R. 1943. Studien zur Etymologie und Bildung der griechischen Fischnamen. Göteborg: Wettergren & Kerber. 1–165.

*Paragaleus tengi* (Chen 1963) in honor of Teng Huo-Tu (1911–1978), Director, Taiwan Fisheries Research Institute, and authority on Taiwanese elasmobranch fishes