

Order SQUALIFORMES

Sleeper Sharks

Family **SOMNIOSIDAE**

Jordan 1888



First-published image of *Somniosus pacificus*, then identified as *S. brevipinna* (= *microcephalus*). From: Garman, S. 1913. The Plagiostomia (sharks, skates, and rays). Memoirs of the Museum of Comparative Zoology 36: i-xiii + 1–515 + Atlas (1–77 pls.).

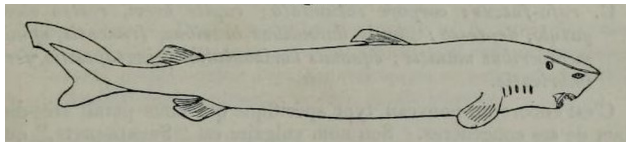
Centroscymnus

Barbosa du Bocage & de Brito Capello 1864

centro-, from *kéntron* (Gr. κέντρον), prickle or sharp point, referring to spines on both dorsal fins; *scymnus* (Gr. σκύμνος), a young animal, a cub or whelp, historically applied to dogfishes and other small sharks

***Centroscymnus coelolepis* Barbosa du Bocage & de Brito Capello 1864**
coelo-, from *koĩlos* (Gr. κοῖλος), hollow; *lepis* (Gr. λεπίς), scale, referring to its concave skin denticles

***Centroscymnus owstonii* Garman 1906** in honor of Alan Owston (1853–1915), English businessman, yachtsman, and collector of Asian wildlife, who obtained holotype



Centroscymnus coelolepis. From: Barbosa du Bocage, J. V. and F. de Brito Capello. 1864. Sur quelques espèces inédites de Squalidae de la tribu Acanthiana, Gray, qui fréquentent les côtes du Portugal. Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London 1864 (pt 2): 260–263.

Centroselachus

Garman 1913

centro-, from *kéntron* (Gr. κέντρον), prickle or sharp point, referring to spines on both dorsal fins; *sélachos* (Gr. σέλαχος), a cartilaginous fish (i.e., shark or ray)

***Centroselachus crepidater* (Barbosa du Bocage & de Brito Capello 1864)** *crepida* (L.), low shoe (e.g., slipper); *ater* (L.), black, transliteration of Portuguese vernacular *sapata preta*, black shoe, allusion not explained, possibly referring to superficial resemblance to a black velvet slipper [see also *Deania calceus*, Centrophoridae]

Scymnodalatias

Garrick 1956

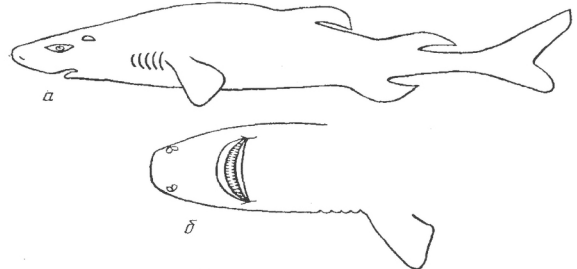
scymno-, referring to previous placement in *Scymnodon*; *dalatias*, referring to lack of dorsal spines like most sharks in the family Dalatiidae (sometimes included within Somniosidae)



Centroselachus crepidater. From: Barbosa du Bocage, J. V. and F. de Brito Capello. 1864. Sur quelques espèces inédites de Squalidae de la tribu Acanthiana, Gray, qui fréquentent les côtes du Portugal. Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London 1864 (pt 2): 260–263.

***Scymnodalatias albicauda* Taniuchi & Garrick 1986** *albus* (L.), white; *cauda* (L.), tail, referring to white markings on caudal fin

***Scymnodalatias garricki* Kukuev & Konovalenko 1988** in honor of J.A.F. (Jack) Garrick (1928–2018), New Zealand shark biologist, who proposed *Scymnodalatias* in 1956 [senior author's name also seen as Kukuyev]



Scymnodalatias garricki, holotype, male, 377 mm TL. From: Kukuev, E. I. and I. I. Konovalenko. 1988. Two new species of sharks of the genus *Scymnodalatias* (Dalatiidae) from the North Atlantic and southeastern Pacific oceans. Voprosy Ikhtologii 28 (2): 315–319. [English translation in Journal of Ichthyology 28 (1): 122–126.]

***Scymnodalatias oligodon* Kukuev & Konovalenko 1988** *olígos* (Gr. ὀλίγος), few or scanty; *odon*, Latinized and grammatically adjusted from the Greek nominative ὀδοῦς (*odoús*), tooth, referring to fewer teeth in upper jaw compared with congeners

***Scymnodalatias sherwoodi* (Archey 1921)** in honor of C. W. Sherwood, who discovered the shark washed up on a beach in Canterbury, New Zealand, and presented it to the local museum

Scymnodon

Barbosa du Bocage & de Brito Capello 1864

scymnus (Gr. σκύμνος), a young animal, a cub or whelp, historically applied to dogfishes and other small sharks; *odon*, Latinized and grammatically adjusted from the Greek nominative ὀδοῦς (*odoús*), tooth, referring to large, triangular cutting teeth on lower jaw of *S. ringens*

***Scymnodon ichiharai* Yano & Tanaka 1984** in honor of marine biologist (specializing in whales) Tadayoshi Ichihara (d. 1981), Tokai University (Tokyo, Japan), who suggested that the authors study this shark

***Scymnodon macracanthus* (Regan 1906)** *macro-*, from *makrós* (Gr. μακρός), long or large; *acanthus* (L.), from *ákantha* (Gr. ἄκανθα), thorn, referring to stout, prominent dorsal-fin spines

***Scymnodon ringens* Barbosa du Bocage & de Brito Capello 1864** Latin for gaping, referring to its large, open mouth (“ore amplo, hiante”)



Scymnodon ringens. From: Barbosa du Bocage, J. V. and F. de Brito Capello. 1864. Sur quelques espèces inédites de Squalidae de la tribu Acanthiana, Gray, qui fréquentent les côtes du Portugal. Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London 1864 (pt 2): 260–263.

Somniosus

Lesueur 1818

Latin for sleepy, reflecting Lesueur's surmise that these sharks are slow or sluggish because of their relatively small fins (hence the name sleeper sharks)

Subgenus *Somniosus*

***Somniosus antarcticus* Whitley 1939** *-icus* (L.), belonging to: the Antarctic (Whitley presumed this to be the first shark recorded from there)

***Somniosus microcephalus* (Bloch & Schneider 1801)** small-headed, from *mikrós* (Gr. μικρός), small, and *kephalḗ* (Gr. κεφαλή), head, allusion not explained, perhaps referring to its short, rounded snout compared with other sharks then included in the catch-all genus *Squalus*

***Somniosus pacificus* Bigelow & Schroeder 1944** *-icus* (L.), belonging to: the Pacific Ocean (specifically, the North Pacific), where it occurs (also in Arctic Ocean)

Subgenus *Rhinoscymnus*

Gill 1865

rhino-, etymology not explained, perhaps *rhinós* (Gr. ῥινός), genitive of *rhís* (ῥίς), nose, referring to short, rounded snout of *S. rostratus*; *scymnus* (Gr. σκύμνος), a young animal, a cub or whelp, historically applied to dogfishes and other small sharks

***Somniosus cheni* Hsu, Lin & Joung 2020** in honor of Wen-Jong Chen, Taitung Xin Gang District Fisherman's Association, for contributions of chondrichthyan fish samples and research assistance with Taiwan and international research for over 30 years

***Somniosus longus* (Tanaka 1912)** Latin for long, perhaps referring to what Tanaka described as its "oblong" shape

***Somniosus rostratus* (Risso 1827)** Latin for beaked, referring to its elongated rostrum

Zameus

Jordan & Fowler 1903

zame, Japanese for shark (at the time, *Z. squamulosus* was known only from Japan)

***Zameus squamulosus* (Günther 1877)** Günther's Neo-Latin for covered or beset with small scales (*squamosus* in classical Latin), "so minute as to give a velvety appearance to the skin"



Probably first-published image of *Zameus squamulosus*. From: Günther, A. 1887. Report on the deep-sea fishes collected by H. M. S. Challenger during the years 1873–76. Report on the Scientific Results of the Voyage of H. M. S. Challenger 22 (57): i–lxv + 1–268, Pls. 1–66.