

STUDIES IN AUSTRALIAN SHARKS, No. 3.

By EDGAR R. WAITE, F.L.S., Zoologist.

(Plates xxxix.-xli.).

CARCHARIAS BRACHYURUS, *Günther*.

(Plate xxxix.).

Carcharias brachyurus, Günther, Cat. Fish. Brit. Mus., viii., 1870, p. 369.

Carcharias macrurus, Ramsay and Ogilby, Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S. Wales, (2), ii., 1887, p. 163.

Dr. Günther's description was based upon a stuffed example, and under the circumstances, such plastic characters as the shape of the mouth and the snout can scarcely be regarded as affording reliable specific characters. Messrs. Ramsay and Ogilby, however, draw attention to these features as providing recognisable points whereby to distinguish a species described as new.

The omission of *C. macrurus* from my "Synopsis of the Fishes of N. S. Wales"¹ would indicate that I regarded this name as a synonym, an opinion strengthened by the examination of a specimen recently received in the flesh. This was forwarded from Lake Macquarie by Mr. James R. Rumsey, and is a female, 840 mm. in length. It is illustrated on the accompanying plate, which provides an accurate representation. Messrs. Ramsay and Ogilby describe the eyes as being rather nearer to the end of the snout than to the anterior gill opening; the former measurement was evidently taken round the curve of the snout, and yields a much longer line than can be shown in a profile drawing. The phrase "the space between the dorsal fins being rather more than one-third of the distance between the end of the second and the base of the caudal" is incorrect, and should read "the space between the dorsal fins is three times that between the second dorsal and the base of the caudal." The position of the anal is not mentioned in the description of *C. macrurus*: I find its

¹ Waite—Mem. N. S. Wales Nat. Club., No. 2, 1904, p. 7.