

***Galeus gracilis* n.sp., a New Sawtail Catshark
from Australia, with Comments on the Systematics
of the Genus *Galeus* Rafinesque, 1810
(Carcharhiniformes: Scyliorhinidae)**

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ABSTRACT. *Galeus gracilis* n.sp. (Scyliorhinidae: Pentanchinae: Galeini) is described from the uppermost slope of Western Australia and the Northern Territory. It is the second recognised member of its genus from Australian waters. This small, slender-bodied *Galeus* is distinguished from the 12 other species in the genus by a combination of proportional dimensions, tooth-row counts, clasper morphology, pectoral-fin radial counts, vertebral counts, intestinal valve counts, chondrocranial morphology, and colouration. It is closest to three Japanese species: *G. eastmani*, *G. longirostris* and *G. nipponensis*. *Galeus gracilis* is compared in detail to *G. boardmani* from southern Australia, which differs from it in numerous features.

COMPAGNO, L.J.V. & J.D. STEVENS, 1993. *Galeus gracilis* n.sp., a new sawtail catshark from Australia, with comments on the systematics of the genus *Galeus* Rafinesque, 1810 (Carcharhiniformes: Scyliorhinidae). Records of the Australian Museum 45(2): 171–194.

The sawtail catsharks, genus *Galeus* Rafinesque, 1810 (Scyliorhinidae: Pentanchinae: Galeini), were most recently reviewed by Compagno (1988), who recognised 11 species following the work of Cadenat (1959), Springer (1966, 1979), Springer & Wagner (1966), Nakaya (1975), Cadenat & Blache (1981), Compagno (1984), and Muñoz-Chapuli & Ortega (1985). While Compagno's review was in press, Tachikawa & Taniuchi (1987) described a 12th valid species from Japan.

The geographic distribution of *Galeus* species is spotty and disjunct. The known species cluster by region and show considerable sympatry in the eastern Atlantic and

western North Pacific (Compagno, 1988):

Western North Atlantic: *Galeus arae* (Nichols, 1927), South Carolina south to Caribbean and Colombia.

Eastern Atlantic: *Galeus melastomus* Rafinesque, 1810, Faroes and Norway south to Mediterranean and Senegal; *G. murinus* (Collett, 1904), Iceland and Faroes; *G. atlanticus* (Vaillant, 1888), Morocco and Spain; *G. polli* Cadenat, 1959, southern Morocco to central Namibia.

Australia: *Galeus boardmani* (Whitley, 1928), south coast from Western Australia to New South Wales.

Western North Pacific: *Galeus eastmani* (Jordan & Snyder, 1904), Japan, possibly Vietnam and the East