

Hemitriakis falcata n.sp. and *H. abdita* n.sp., Two New Houndsharks (Carcharhiniformes: Triakidae) from Australia

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ABSTRACT. Two new species of the genus *Hemitriakis* Herre, 1923 (Carcharhiniformes: Triakidae) are described from tropical Australia. *Hemitriakis falcata* is described from ten specimens from the outer continental shelf of Western Australia at depths of 146 to 197 m. *Hemitriakis abdita* is described from five specimens from the Coral Sea Plateau off north-eastern Queensland at 225 to 401 m. *Hemitriakis falcata* and *H. abdita* are separable from their two named congeners *H. leucoperiptera*, from the Philippine Islands, and *H. japonica*, from Japan, Taiwan, China and Korea, by a combination of vertebral counts, first dorsal position, fin and eye shape, and juvenile colouration. *Hemitriakis falcata* additionally differs from *H. japonica* in chondrocranial morphology. *Hemitriakis falcata* and *H. abdita* are sibling species separated by wide, non-overlapping differences in vertebral counts as well as by slight differences in morphometrics, tooth counts, colouration, and cranial morphology. These species represent the first record of *Hemitriakis* from Australia. A nominal record of *H. japonica* from Ambon is uncertain while another record of *H. japonica* from New Caledonia may be based on *H. abdita*. A key to species of *Hemitriakis* is presented.

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Recent trawl collections on the outer continental shelves and upper slopes of Australia have yielded numerous sharks and other chondrichthians (Gloerfelt-Tarp & Kailola, 1984; Davis & Ward, 1984; Sainsbury *et al.*, 1985; Gorman & Graham, 1985; Williams, 1987). Included in this material are specimens of houndsharks (Carcharhiniformes: Triakidae) that represent the first Australian records of the genus *Hemitriakis* Herre, 1923

as defined by Compagno (1970).

Compagno (1984) noted an undescribed species of *Hemitriakis* from Western Australia while Compagno (1988) cited two specimens of this species (WAM P26271-001 and WAM P26724-007) and deferred their description to the present paper. While preparing the description of this species we discovered that additional specimens of *Hemitriakis* deposited in the CSIRO