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924 Record of a female spadenose shark with foetii off Visakhapatnam coast

Visakhapatnam area has an important shark fishery and carcharhinds namely *Scoliodon laticaudus*, *Rhizoprionodon* spp. and *Loxodon macrorhinus* are caught in the indigenous gear and trawl nets. The spadenose shark *Scoliodon laticaudus* (= *S. Serrakouah*) Muller and Henle which is distributed in the Indo-Pacific region is a common viviparous shark in the waters off Visakhapatnam and is fished by hooks and line, drift and bottom set gillnets and trawlnets. A female of the species with a total length of 570 mm and weight 534 g with bulged abdomen containing several foetii was recorded in the trawl catch of a Sona boat which operated northeast of Visakhapatnam at a depth of 40 m on 29th October, 1997 in the afternoon.

The female shark had nineteen intrauterine foetii ranging in length from 105 to 129 mm and weight from

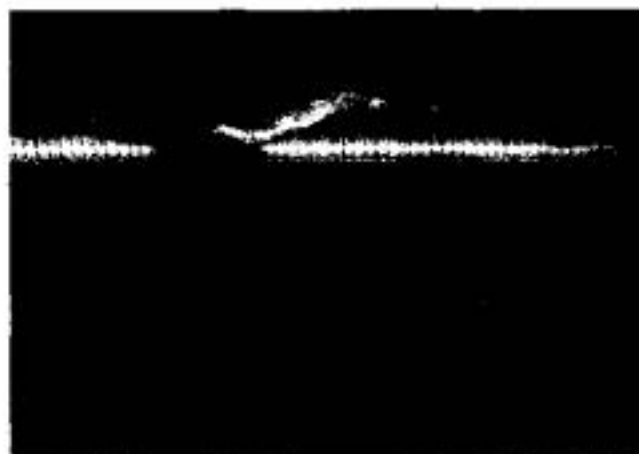


Fig. 1. Female spadenose shark, *Scoliodon laticaudus* with nineteen foetii recorded off Visakhapatnam coast.

5 to 8 g. The foetii were well developed with prominent head, eyes, fins and dark dorsal pigmentation. They were attached to the uterus with long, flattened appendicula. A maximum number of fourteen foetii have been reported earlier (Compagno L.J.V., 1984 *FAO Fish.Symp.* (25) 4 (2) : 534-535).

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