

Observation on a deformed specimen of grey bamboo shark *Chiloscyllium griseum*, Muller & Henle, 1838 from the Arabian Sea off Karwar, Karnataka

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The grey bamboo shark, *Chiloscyllium griseum* is a common inshore shark species that occurs from 5 to 80 m depths along the east and west coasts of India. It is one of the common species in incidental capture in trawl nets used for catching crustaceans and cephalopods and does not have commercial importance. This species feeds on invertebrates and fishes.

An abnormal specimen of the grey bamboo shark was observed at Baithkol Landing Centre, Karwar on 30th April 2012. It was caught off Karwar by trawl net operated at around 20 m depth. The specimen

had a deformed wavy body with a series of dorsal and ventral curvatures of the spine. Similar deformities have been observed in different species of wild shark (Officer *et al.*, 1995; Heupel *et al.*, 1999). Earlier workers suggested parasitic infestation, tumours, bad nutrition, congenital abnormality, unfavourable environment during embryonic development, pollution, pesticide toxicity or injury as etiological factors for such spinal abnormalities in fishes. The specimen had a total length of 33.2 cm and weighed 186 g. The specimen is deposited in the Museum of the Karwar Research Centre of the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute.



Deformed shark, *Chiloscyllium griseum*, landed at Baithkol, Karwar