

A record of the largest big eye hound shark *Iago omanensis* (Norman, 1939) from Gujarat, North West Coast of India

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A female specimen of big eye hound shark *Iago omanensis* measuring 66 cm was landed at Mangrol fishing harbor on 17th September 2013. The specimen was collected along with 13 others of the same species. *I. omanensis* was not recorded earlier from Gujarat. The largest size description given in Fish base is 58 cm (female). The species is distributed from Oman to Pakistan and southwestern coast of India. The information on the fishing ground collected from the fishermen indicated that the fishes were caught at Okha by a multiday trawler from a depth of 120 m. The specimens were brought to the laboratory, photographed and the species identification was confirmed following Compagno,

1984. Detailed morphometric measurements were noted and the shark was dissected for biological observation.

I. omanensis had a small and slender body with a moderately long and narrowly rounded snout (Fig 1). The first dorsal was far anterior over the



Fig.1. Dorsal view of *Iago omanensis*

pectoral fin base. The second dorsal was smaller than the first dorsal. The pectorals were larger than the first dorsal. Eyes were moderately larger having nictitating eye lids and horizontally oval eyes on both the sides of head. The gill slits were wider and longer having the last two gill slits over the pectoral fin base. Mouth was angular (Fig. 2) having same small lateral teeth with cusps but no cusplet in both the jaws. There were three functional rows of the teeth (Fig. 3) in the specimen and the dental formula was calculated as 54/40. Compagno and Springer calculated the dental formula as 46-55/37-45. The species was grey-brownish above and white below. The tip of the dorsal fins and upper caudal fin was black tipped. The total length of the female specimen was 66 cm having a weight of 1.20 kg. The detailed morphometric measurements have been given in table 1.



Fig. 2. Ventral view of *Iago omanensis*



Fig. 3. Mouth and teeth pattern of *I. omanensis*

Table 1. Morphometric characters of big eye hound shark

Characters	Measurements (cm)
Total length	66
Fork length	56
Head length upto 1 st gill slit	8.5
Pre first dorsal	18.5
Pre pectoral	16
Pre pelvic	32

Pre anal	43
Pectoral pelvic distance	14
Pelvic anal distance	8.5
Pre nasal	5
Inter nasal	2.5
Pre orbital	5
Eye diameter	1.7
Mouth length	3
Mouth width	4.5
Body depth	10.5
Height of 1 st dorsal	6.8
Base of 1 st dorsal	6.5
Height of 2 nd dorsal	5.5
Base of 2 nd dorsal	5
Height of pectoral	8.5
Base of pectoral	4
Height of pelvic	3.5
Base of pelvic	3.5
Height of anal	3
Base of of anal	3.5
Uterus length	12
Ovary length	2
Liver length	15.6
Length of labial furrow	1.1
Pre oral length	3.7
Height of 1 st gill slit	1.9
Height of V th gill slit	1.5
Distance between 1 st &V th gill slit	6.2
Teeth count (Upper jaw)	54
Teeth count (Lower jaw)	40

The shark is a demersal, viviparous species found at a depth of 110-2195 m (fish base). Upon dissection, it was found that the female was pregnant with 19 embryos (Fig. 4) with a size range from 4.5 to 5.1 cm. All the embryos were having yolk sac and placental connections to the uterus of the mother and there were 9 and 10 numbers of embryos in each compartment of the uterus. The stomach was half with semi-digested fish of species *Nemipterus* and *Apogon*. Out of 15 specimens, 8 were females and 7 males. The females were larger than the males. The species has been assessed at Least Concern by IUCN.



Fig. 4. *I. omanensis* with 19 embryos having yolk sac and placental connection