

Photograph-based record of False catshark, *Pseudotriakis microdon* from India



Fig. 1. *Pseudotriakis microdon* landed at Thengaipattinam, Tamil Nadu

While looking at photographs of sharks by field staff an unusual shark was observed along with gulper sharks (Centrophoridae) and was identified as False catshark, *Pseudotriakis microdon* Capello, 1868 (Pseudotriakidae) Fig. 1. A second opinion on photograph-based identification was obtained from global shark expert Dr. David Ebert. This 130 kg, 9 feet female shark was from mechanized liner landing 19.05. 2023 at Thengaipattinam landing centre, Tamil Nadu. The fishing ground was located at a depth of 200m at a distance of 260km from the shore. This appears

to be first report of the species from Indian waters, which still harbours hidden deepwater diversity. This deep-sea shark can grow to a size of 300 cm TL, have a large, bulky, dark-brown, soft-bodied shark with elongated, catlike eyes and nictitating eyelids, large spiracles, a huge, wide, angular mouth, two large spineless dorsal fins and an anal fin. The low, long, keel-like first dorsal fin and a caudal fin without a strong ventral lobe are strong identification characteristics of the species.

Pseudotriakidae (Carcharhiniformes) in India was formerly known based

on only single species *Planonasus indicus* Ebert, Akhilesh & Weigmann 2018 which was based on material from India and currently known from India and Sri Lanka only. *Pseudotriakis microdon* though known as a cosmopolitan deepwater species Indian Ocean records are poor. This report fills a gap in the distribution range of species and could be more widespread. The deepwater fisheries of India is providing more faunal diversity to India.

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