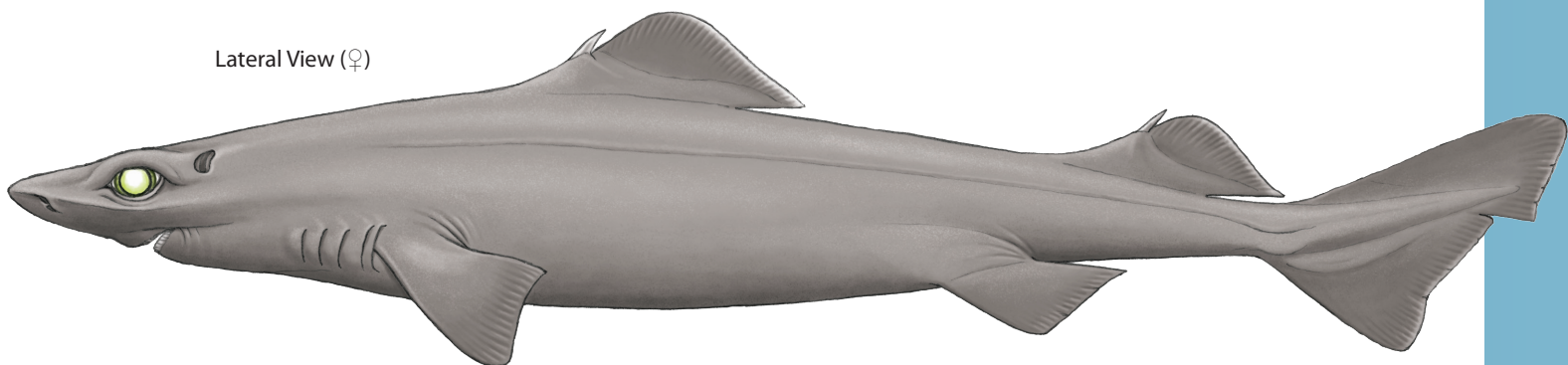
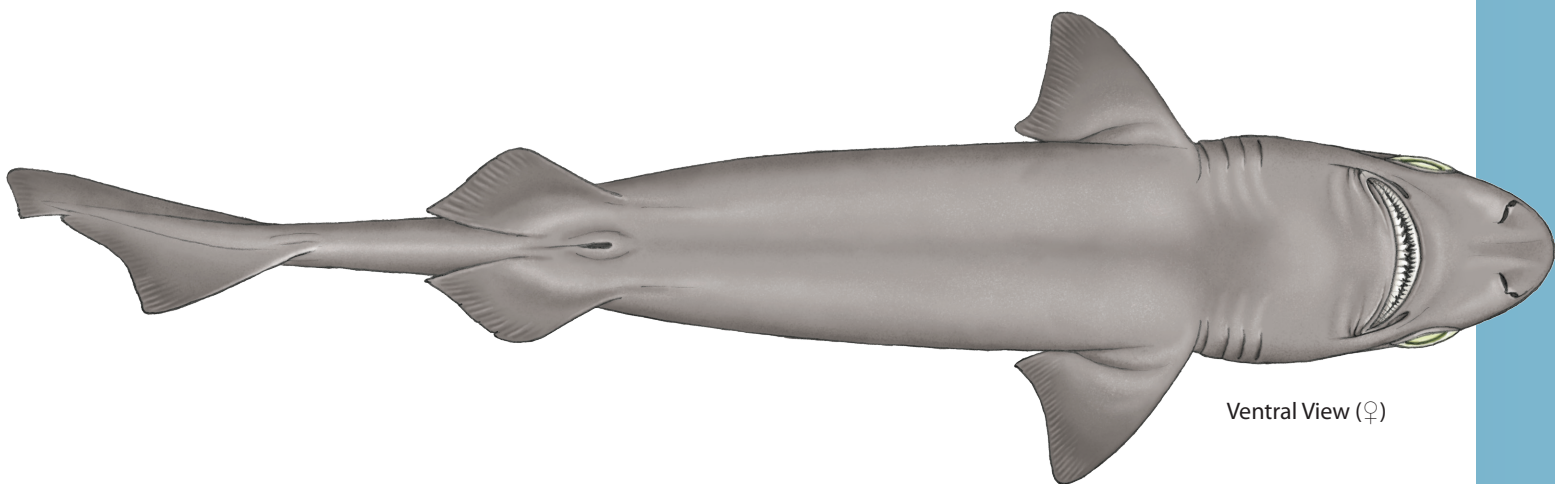


Lateral View (♀)



Ventral View (♀)



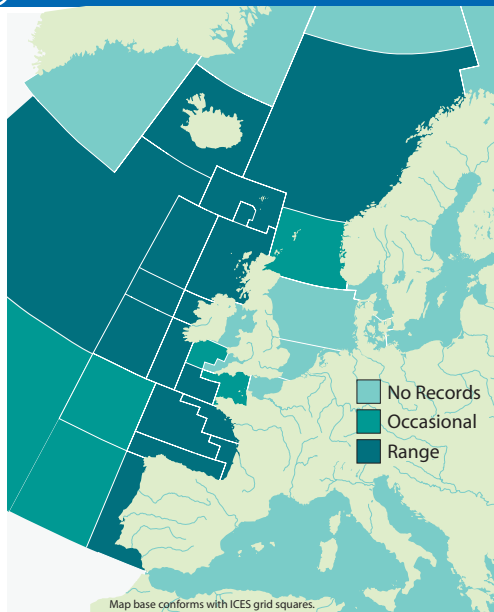
COMMON NAMES

Leafscale Gulper Shark, Deepwater Spiny Dogfish, Nilson's Deepsea Dogfish, Squalo-chagrin de l'Atlantique (Fr), Quelvacho Negro (Es).

SYNONYMS

Lepidorhinus squamosus (Bonnaterre, 1788), *Squalus squamosus* (Bonnaterre, 1788), *Acanthorhinus squamosus* (Blainville, 1816), *Lepidorhinus squamosus* (Bonaparte, 1838), *Macheophilus dumerili* (Johnson, 1867), *Centrophorus dumerili* (Günther, 1870).

DISTRIBUTION



In the east Atlantic, the Leafscale Gulper Shark is found from Iceland to South Africa and into the western Indian Ocean. It is also known from west Pacific (Carpenter, 2009).

APPEARANCE

- Moderately long snout.
- Two dorsal fins with large spines.
- No anal fin.
- Blade-like unicuspidate teeth in both jaws.
- Large eyes green when first caught.
- Grey or grey-brown.
- Maximum length of 158cm.

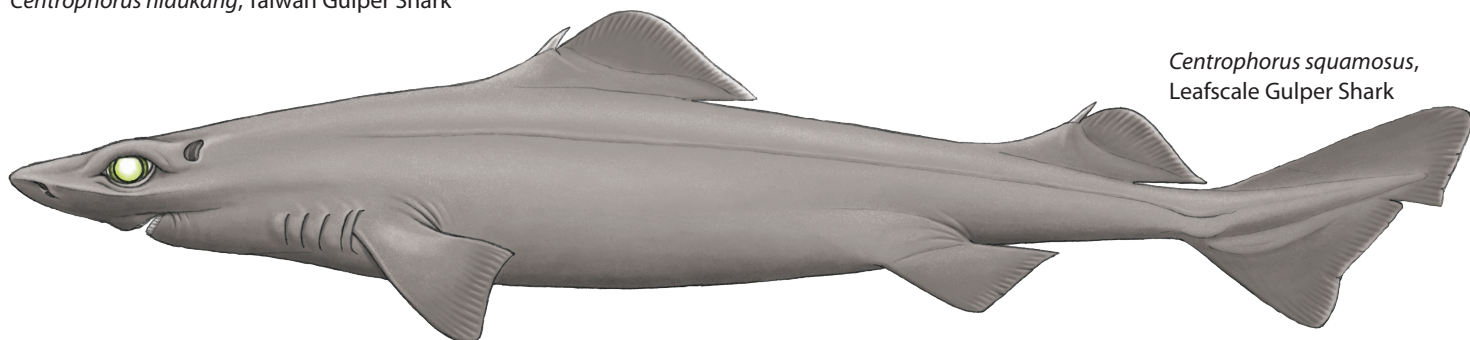
A moderately sized deep-water shark, the Leafscale Gulper Shark has no anal fin and two dorsal fins with large spines. The free rear tips of these dorsal fins are broadly angular and are not strongly extended. It has a moderately long snout with blade-like unicuspidate teeth in both jaws, the lower set being much larger than the upper. It is grey or grey-brown on both dorsal and ventral surfaces with no obvious patterning. Females mature later than males and at a larger size, although both sexes reach maximum total length of around 150cm. The largest recorded was a 158cm total length female (Compagno, 1984).

SIMILAR SPECIES

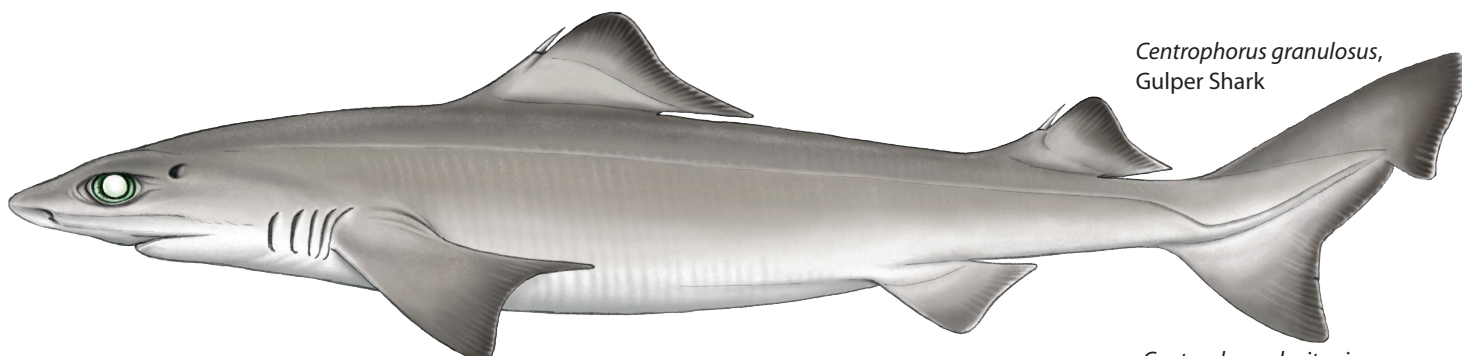
Centrophorus granulosus, Gulper Shark

Centrophorus lusitanicus, Lowfin Gulper Shark

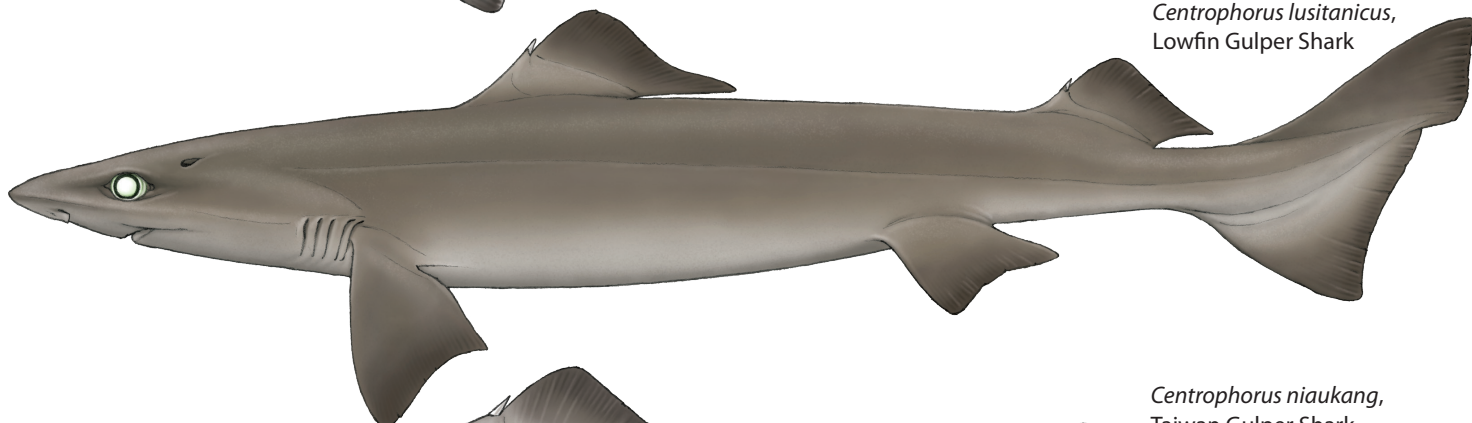
Centrophorus niaukang, Taiwan Gulper Shark



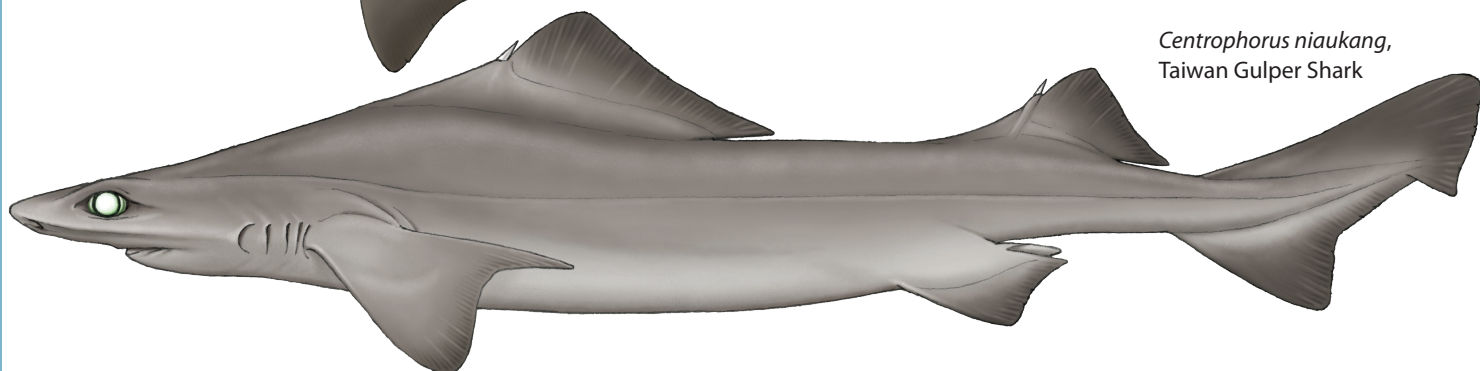
Centrophorus squamosus,
Leafscale Gulper Shark



Centrophorus granulosus,
Gulper Shark



Centrophorus lusitanicus,
Lowfin Gulper Shark



Centrophorus niaukang,
Taiwan Gulper Shark

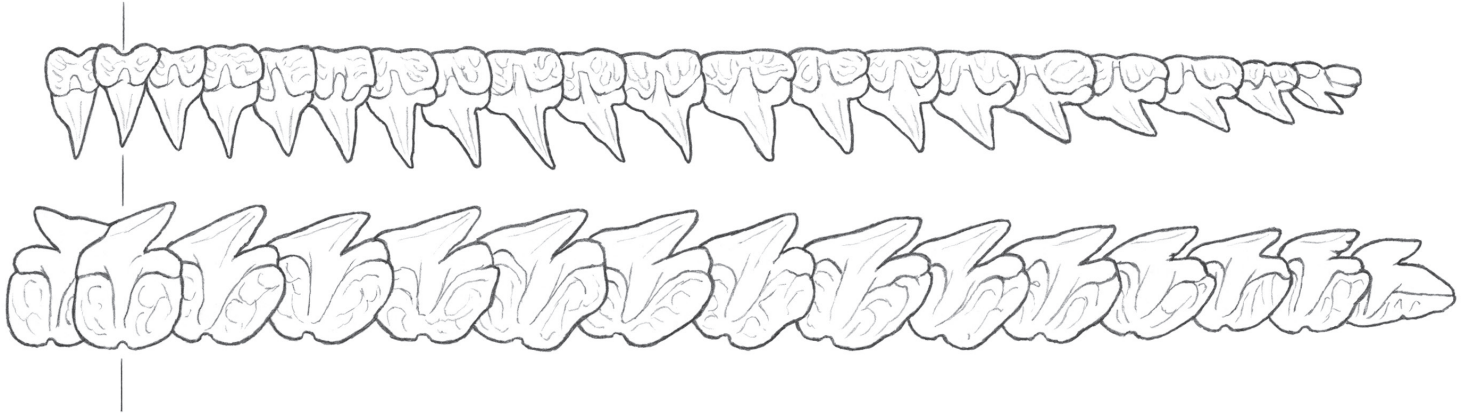
Dermal Denticles of *Centrophorus squamosus*



(Not to scale)

TEETH

The teeth are blade-like and unicuspidate. The lowers are much larger than uppers (Compagno, 1984).



ECOLOGY AND BIOLOGY

HABITAT

Found demersally on continental slopes from 230–2,400m and pelagic in the water column to 1,250m (White, 2003).

EGGCASE

N/A

DIET

Unknown but presumably feeds on fish and cephalopods (Carpenter, 2009).

REPRODUCTION

50% of male Leafscale Gulper Sharks are sexually mature at a total length of 100cm, females larger at 125cm. It is an ovoviparous with 5–8 young in each litter. Little else is known of its reproduction, although no seasonal cycle is apparent in males suggesting that mating occurs throughout the year (White, 2003).

COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

The Leafscale Gulper Shark is an important component of deepwater longline and trawl fisheries off Ireland, Spain, Portugal and France. Its flesh and liver are marketed across much of its range from southeast Asia to Japan and the east Atlantic (White, 2003).

THREATS, CONSERVATION, LEGISLATION

An important component of deep sea fisheries for many years, the Leafscale Gulper Shark has been commercially exploited across its range. It is targeted particularly heavily by the Portuguese longline fleet and by mixed trawl fleets in the Rockall Trough and Porcupine Bank in the eastern Atlantic. Good quality population data does not currently exist, although declines of 80-90% over 3 years have been observed in some areas of the northeast Atlantic (White, 2003).

In ICES sub-areas V, VI, VII, VIII and IX a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 1,646 tons (2008) applies to the deepwater sharks *Centroscyrnus coelolepis*, *Centrophorus granulosus*, *C. squamosus*, *Deania calcea*, *Dalatias licha*, *Etmopterus princeps*, *E. spinax*, *Centroscyllium fabricii*, *Galeus melastomus*, *G. murinus* and all *Apristurus* spp.. Additionally, these species have a TAC of 20 tons in sub-area X and a TAC of 49 tons (including *Deania hystrix* and *D. profundorum*) in sub-area XII (CPOA Shark, 2009).

IUCN RED LIST ASSESSMENT

Vulnerable (2003).

Endangered in northeast Atlantic.

HANDLING AND THORN ARRANGEMENT

- Handle with care.
- Large dorsal spines.
- Abrasive skin and sharp teeth.

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Text: Richard Hurst.
Illustrations: Marc Dando.

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