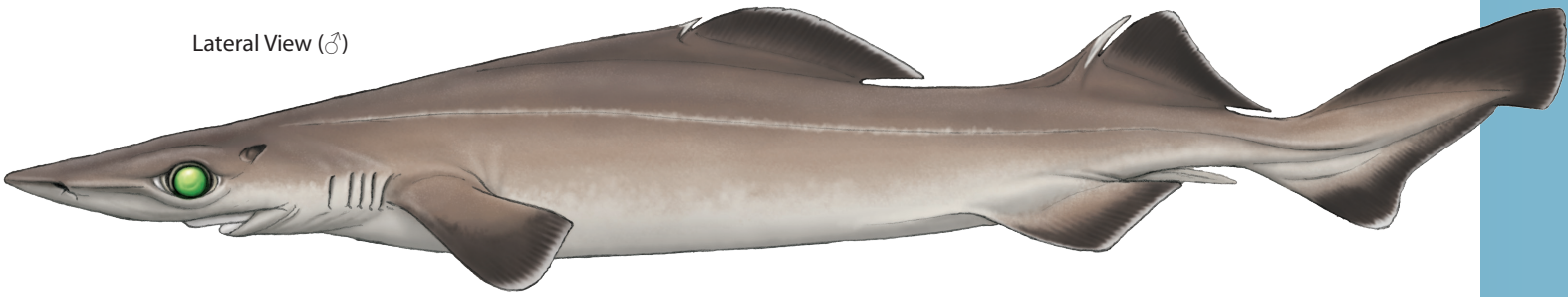
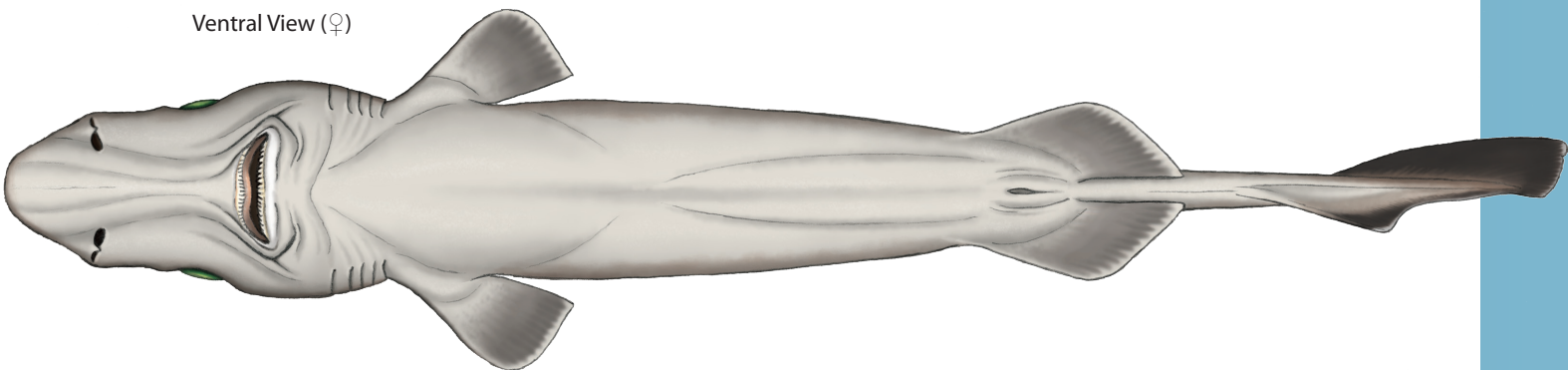


Lateral View (♂)



Ventral View (♀)



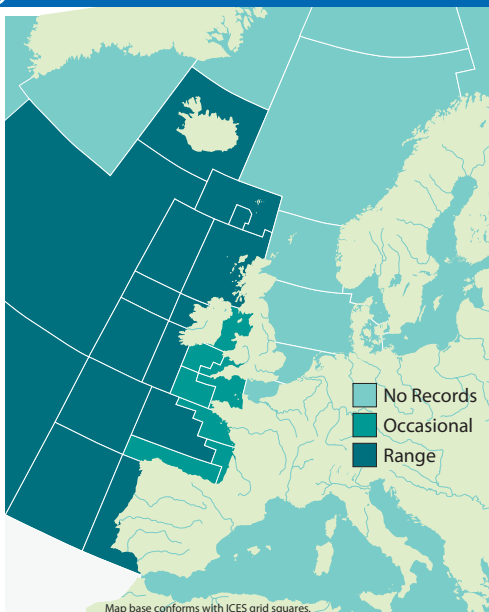
### COMMON NAMES

**Birdbeak Dogfish**, Brier Shark, Shovelnose Spiny Dogfish, Squale Savate (Fr), Tollo Pajarito (Es).

### SYNONYMS

*Acanthidium calceum* (Lowe, 1839), *Centrophorus crepidalbus* (Bocage & Capello, 1868), *Deania eglantina* (Jordan & Snyder, 1902), *Acanthidium rostratum* (Garman, 1906), *Acanthidium aciculatum* (Garman, 1906), *Centrophorus kaikourae* (Whitley, 1934).

### DISTRIBUTION



The Birdbeak Dogfish is known in the east Atlantic from Iceland along the Atlantic slope to the Faroe Islands, Madeira, Mauritania, possibly Senegal and Namibia. It is also known from areas of the Indian and Pacific Oceans (Compagno, 1984).

### APPEARANCE

- Extremely long snout.
- First dorsal fin with small, grooved spine.
- Second dorsal spine is grooved and much larger.
- First dorsal fin long and low, second more upright.
- No anal fin.
- Large subterminal lobe on caudal fin.
- Teeth similar in both jaws.
- Uniformly grey brown.
- To 111 cm total length.

The Birdbeak Dogfish is a slender shark with an extremely long snout. The first dorsal fin is long and low with an expanded forward ridge. This ridge originates over the pectoral base. The second dorsal fin is more upright and the ridge originates over the pelvic base. Both dorsal fins have associated spines, although the second is much larger than the first. There is no anal fin. The dorsal lobe of the caudal fin is larger than the ventral lobe. There is a large subterminal lobe but no terminal notch. The dermal denticles are small (~0.5mm crown length) and pitchfork shaped. The colouration is a uniform grey brown with no pattern (Compagno, 1984).



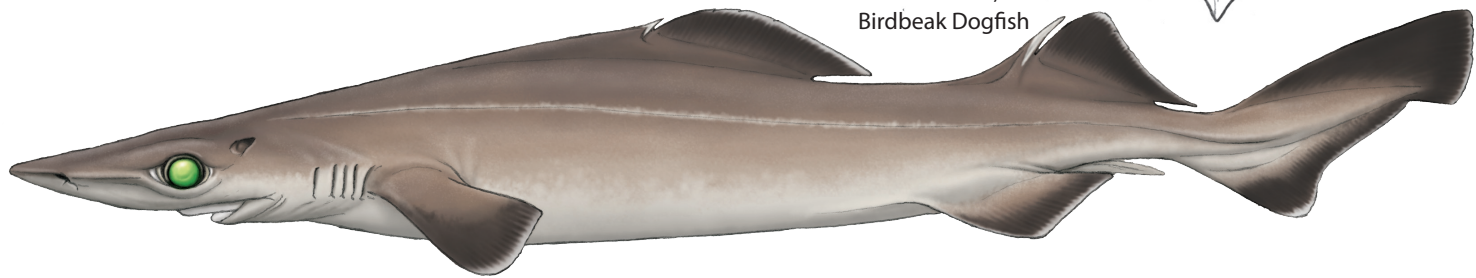
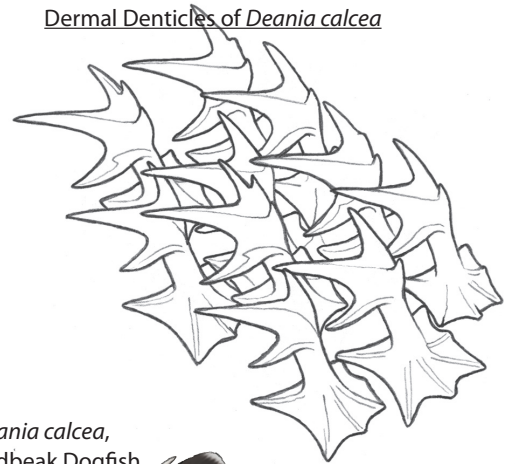
## SIMILAR SPECIES

*Deania profundorum*, Arrowhead Dogfish

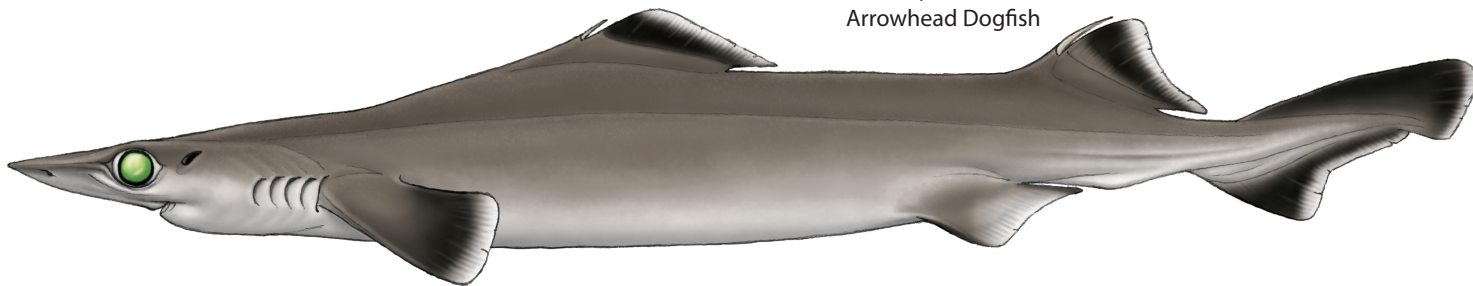
*Deania hystricosa*, Rough Longnose Dogfish

*Centroselachus crepidater*, Longnose Velvet Dogfish

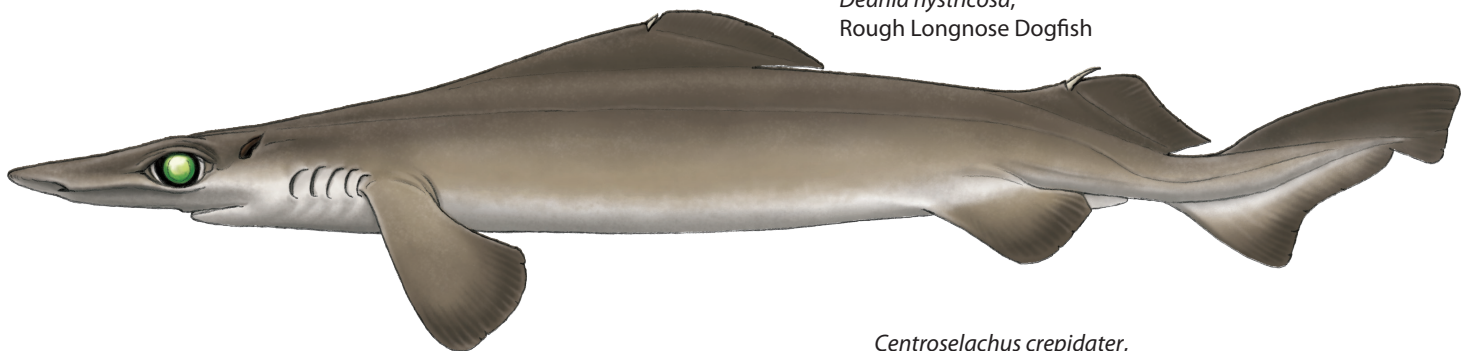
Dermal Denticles of *Deania calcea*



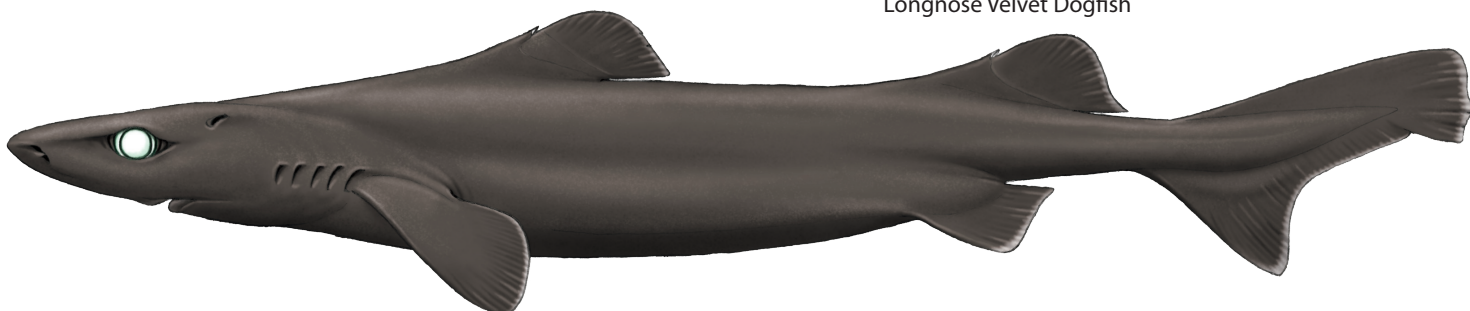
*Deania calcea*,  
Birdbeak Dogfish



*Deania profundorum*,  
Arrowhead Dogfish



*Deania hystricosa*,  
Rough Longnose Dogfish

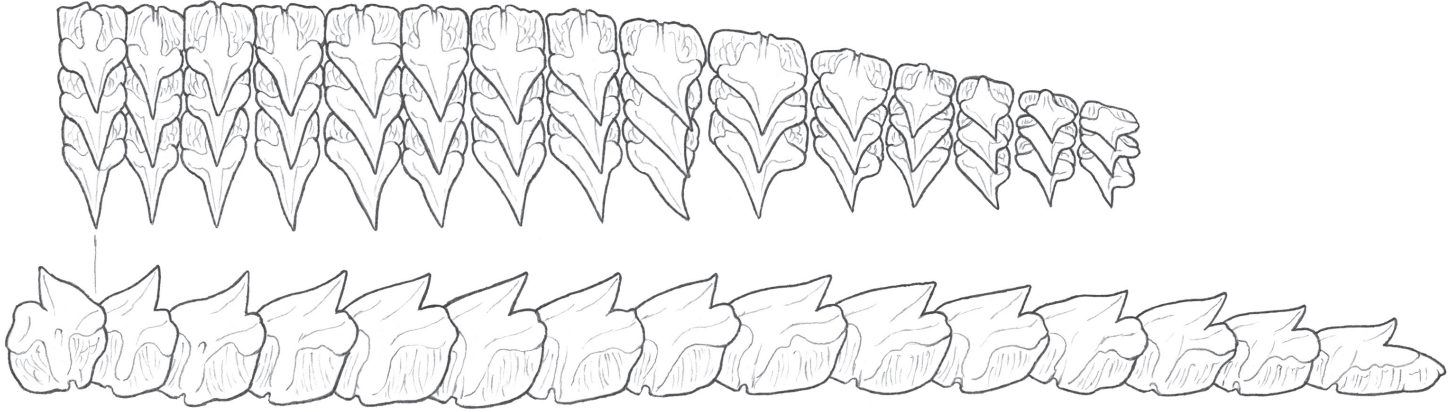


*Centroselachus crepidater*,  
Longnose Velvet Dogfish

(Not to scale)

### TEETH

The teeth are straight, wide-rooted and unicuspid in the upper jaw and smooth, mouth angle recurved cusp in the lower jaw (Valenzuela *et al.*, 2008). Unlike many deep sea sharks, the Birdbeak Dogfish has compressed cutting teeth in both jaws (Compagno, 1984).



### ECOLOGY AND BIOLOGY

#### HABITAT

The Birdbeak Dogfish can be found from 70–1,450m, although in Australia at least, catch rates are highest between 600 and 1,100m. It is most usually found near the bottom but its diet suggests that it can feed well above the substrate (Stevens, 2003).

#### EGGCASE

N/A

### DIET

The diet of the Birdbeak Dogfish includes fish, cephalopods and crustaceans. In the northeast Atlantic, Namibia, South Africa and Australia, myctophids were also recorded, suggesting that it regularly feeds in the water column far from the bottom (Stevens, 2003).

### REPRODUCTION

Females reach maturity at around 90cm total length, males at around 80cm. This corresponds to an age of 25 years for females and 17 years for males. Given that longevity has been recorded as 35 years, the Birdbeak Dogfish does not reach maturity until very late in its life cycle. Reproduction appears to be non seasonal but the gestation period is unknown. Litters of 1–7 pups have been recorded, each measuring ~30cm total length (Stevens, 2003).

## COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

The Birdbeak Dogfish is mainly a bycatch species in trawl and longline fisheries, although it is targeted (particularly in Australia) for its squalene-rich liver oil. Its flesh is sometimes used for human consumption and it can be processed for fishmeal (Stevens, 2003).

## THREATS, CONSERVATION, LEGISLATION

There are currently no quantitative data on population trends for the Birdbeak Dogfish. However, it is a very late maturing species which gives birth to few young after what is most likely a long gestation period. It is therefore vulnerable to overfishing and any expansion of deepwater fisheries targeting sharks should be very carefully monitored (Stevens, 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 *Centroscymnus coelolepis*, *Centrophorus granulosus*, *C. squamosus*, *Deania calceus*, *Dalatias licha*, *Etmopterus princeps*, *E. spinax*, *Centrosyllium 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 histricosa* and *D. profundorum*) in sub-area XII (CPOA Shark, 2009).

## IUCN RED LIST ASSESSMENT

Least Concern (2003).  
Vulnerable in northeast Atlantic.

## HANDLING AND THORN ARRANGEMENT

- Handle with care.
- Large dorsal spines.
- Sharp teeth.
- Abrasive skin.

### REFERENCES

- COMPAGNO, L. J. V. 1984. Sharks of the World: An Annotated and Illustrated Catalogue of Shark Species Known to Date. Volume 4, Part 1. Hexanchiformes to Lamniformes. FAO. Rome, Italy.
- COMPAGNO, L., DANDO, M., FOWLER, S. 2005. Sharks of the World. HarperCollins Publishers Ltd. London, UK.
- CORTÉS, E. 1999. Standardized diet compositions and trophic levels of sharks. *ICES Journal of Marine Science*. Vol. 56: 707-717.
- STEVENS, J. 2003. *Deania calcea*. In: IUCN 2008. 2008 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. [www.iucnredlist.org](http://www.iucnredlist.org).
- VALENZUELA, A., BUSTAMANTE, C., LAMILLA, J. 2008. Morphological characteristics of five bycatch sharks caught by southern Chilean demersal longline fisheries. *Scientia Marina*, Vol. 72 (2): 231-237.

Text: Richard Hurst.  
Illustrations: Marc Dando.

#### Citation

Shark Trust; 2010. An Illustrated Compendium of Sharks, Skates, Rays and Chimaera. Chapter 1: The British Isles and Northeast Atlantic. Part 2: Sharks.

Any amendments or corrections, please contact:  
The Shark Trust  
4 Creykes Court, The Millfields  
Plymouth, Devon PL1 3JB  
**Tel:** 01752 672008/672020  
**Email:** [enquiries@sharktrust.org](mailto:enquiries@sharktrust.org)

For more ID materials visit [www.sharktrust.org/ID](http://www.sharktrust.org/ID).

Registered Company No. 3396164.  
Registered Charity No. 1064185