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A NEW SHARK FROM THE CONTINENTAL SLOPE OFF FLORIDA

BY J. T. NICHOLS

Mr. W. K. Vanderbilt, in the course of recent ichthyological investigations carried on from the 'Ara,' has obtained two almost identical specimens of an interesting small shark off Florida, and one of these he has courteously presented to the Department of Fishes of The American Museum of Natural History to be described as the type of a new species.

Pristiurus aræ, new species

Two specimens about 160 mm. in total length dredged at a depth of 200 fathoms off Miami Beach, March 31, 1926, both females. Slender, long-snouted, flat-headed,

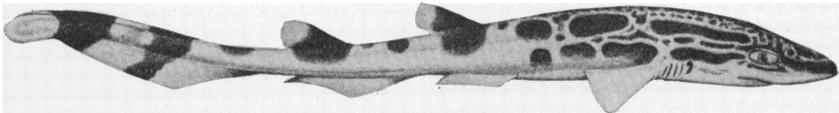


Fig. 1. *Pristiurus aræ*, from a painting made for Mr. Vanderbilt by W. E. Belanske.

big-eyed little sharks related to the black-mouthed dogfish of Europe (*Pristiurus melanostomus*).

The type (No. 8677, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.) is 159 mm. total length. Depth contained $2\frac{1}{2}$ times and width of head $1\frac{3}{4}$ times in length of head to last gill opening. Eye $4\frac{2}{3}$, snout $2\frac{1}{2}$, interorbital $2\frac{1}{2}$, width of mouth $2\frac{2}{3}$ times in the same distance. Head $4\frac{3}{4}$ times in total length.

Seen from beneath the head resembles the figure of *P. melanostomus* in Müller and Henle (1841) but the snout is less narrowed forward, particularly across the nostrils. A notable difference from the description of that species in Garman (1913) is a smaller anal, with base only 2 versus 3 times the length of that of either dorsal, its backward angle falling well short of the caudal.

The caudal axis extends directly backward in the line of the body; and a flat-topped ridge, consisting of enlarged rather lanceolate scales diverging backward to either side, and subtended by a furrow beneath, commences a short distance behind the second dorsal and is lost on the low front of the caudal fin.

Color is at least suggestive of that of the black-mouthed dogfish. In preservative, the ground color is pale. There is a row of irregular, more or less elongate, dark blotches along the side of the back, and an imperfect row of smaller ones lower down anteriorly. Top of head, center of back, and streak between the two rows of blotches, freckled with dark. A dark streak from snout through and behind the eye. Inside of the mouth bluish gray. There are 5 conspicuous blackish blotches,—on the base of each dorsal extending onto the body, on the base of the caudal above, slightly farther back on the subcaudal fin, and a large one across the caudal at its notch.