

STUDIES IN ICHTHYOLOGY.

No. 10.*

By

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(Plate ii, and Figures 1-5.)

Family CARCHARIIDÆ.

Genus *Carcharias* Rafinesque, 1810.

Carcharias arenarius Ogilby.

(Figure 1.)

Odontaspis cinerea Ramsay, Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. Wales, v, 1, Aug., 1880, p. 96, footnote. *Nomen nudum ex* Macleay, MS.

Carcharias arenarius Ogilby, Ann. Qld. Mus. x, Nov. 1, 1911, p. 37. Moreton Bay, Queensland.

This species is the true Grey Nurse Shark of Australia, which has not hitherto been figured from a fresh specimen. Whilst on holidays at Bateman's Bay, New South Wales, in March, 1936, I saw a number of specimens caught by Mr. Zane Grey and his associates and also by local fishermen. The largest was about 9 ft. 9 in. over all, and was dirty pale brownish in colour; the smallest specimen was pale grey, with irregular light rusty spots. A specimen utilized by Mr. Grey in his cinema film was selected for drawing, and had the following characters:

Female. Total length, 9 ft. 4½ in. Depth about 18 in. Head, measured to first gill-slit, 22. Preocular length, 7½. Eye, 1. Snout, from upper lip, 5. Nostrils, 1½. Internarial space nearly 3½. Width of head just behind nostrils, 6. Symphysis of upper jaw to side of head, 3½. Length of one side of mouth, 7. Distance between outer labial folds, 10. Gill-slits about 7 in. wide, the last about 6, situated in advance of pectoral fin. No nictitating membrane or spiracles. Nine or ten functional teeth visible in front row of each side of both jaws in fresh specimen.¹ No median tooth. Labial folds rather ovally rounded. Median part of lower lip produced forward anteriorly. Body robust, the margins of the fins rounded. Predorsal length, 45 in. Base of first dorsal, 9. Interdorsal space, 15. Base of second dorsal, 7½. End of second dorsal to caudal, 7. Anal origin to base of caudal, 10. The origin of the anal fin is below the posterior part of the second dorsal

* For No. 9, see RECORDS OF THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM, Vol. xix, No. 4, September, 1935, p. 215.

¹ Cleaned jaws at Mr. Zane Grey's camp had the following formula:

Upper jaw—

14 very small, 8 { increasing in size } (gap), 1 small, 3 large { none at symphysis }, 3, 1 (gap), 8, 11.

Lower jaw—

10 very small, 9 { increasing in size }, 1 smaller { none at symphysis }, 1, 9, 10.