

***Aulohalaelurus kanakorum* n.sp., a New Species
of Catshark (Carcharhiniformes, Scyliorhinidae,
Atelomycterinae) from New Caledonia**

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ABSTRACT. A new catshark, *Aulohalaelurus kanakorum* n.sp., is described from an adult male collected from off south-western New Caledonia. It is the second species in the genus *Aulohalaelurus*, previously restricted to western Australia. The new species is distinct from its allopatric congener, *Aulohalaelurus labiosus* (Waite, 1905), mainly by colour pattern, longer interdorsal space, pelvic-anal distance, shorter prepelvic length, morphology of dermal denticles and higher number of diplospondylous vertebrae. A neotype is also designated for *A. labiosus* (Waite, 1905).

SÉRET, B., 1990. *Aulohalaelurus kanakorum* n.sp., a new species of catshark (Carcharhiniformes, Scyliorhinidae, Atelomycterinae) from New Caledonia. Records of the Australian Museum 42(2): 127–136.

Fowler (1934: 235–237) defined two subgenera of the genus *Halaelurus* Gill, 1862, *Holohalaelurus* (type species *Scyliorhinus regani* Gilchrist, 1922) and *Aulohalaelurus* (type species *Catulus labiosus* Waite, 1905). The diagnosis provided by Fowler for his new subgenus *Aulohalaelurus* was "...labial folds greatly developed, extend along lower jaw nearly to symphysis..." in which folds mean furrows or grooves as suggested by the Greek stem *aulos* meaning grooves. This subgenus was elevated to generic rank by Whitley (1934: 153; 1940: 89) but Bigelow & Schroeder (1948: 198) relegated it to the synonymy of *Halaelurus*, and Compagno (1973) did not mention this genus in his classification of living elasmobranchs. In his revision of the scyliorhinid catsharks, Springer (1979: 35–36) recognised the monotypic genus *Aulohalaelurus* and provided a

more detailed diagnosis. Compagno included *Aulohalaelurus* in his revision of the carcharhinoid sharks (1979: 183) and in his catalogue of sharks (1984b: 294) pointed out that the validity of this genus had to be confirmed. In the revised version of his study on the Carcharhiniformes, Compagno (1988: 103–105) recognised the monotypic genus *Aulohalaelurus* and suggested that it is the "...primitive sister group..." of *Atelomycterus*. Both genera were included in the subfamily Atelomycterinae, new rank for Atelomycteridae White (1936) as proposed and defined by Compagno (1988: 98).

Waite (1905) described his species *Catulus labiosus* from a male 620 mm total length (TL) collected off Fremantle, and supposedly deposited in the Western Australian Museum (WAM). Whitley (1934: fig.1) illustrated