

***Atelomycterus fasciatus* n.sp., a New Catshark
(Chondrichthyes: Carcharhiniformes: Scyliorhinidae)
from Tropical Australia**

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ABSTRACT. A new atelomycterine catshark (Scyliorhinidae: Atelomycterinae), *Atelomycterus fasciatus* n.sp., is described from the continental shelf of northern Australia (North West Shelf, Arafura Sea, Gulf of Carpentaria and Torres Strait). It differs from *Atelomycterus marmoratus* (Bennett, 1830) and *A. macleayi* Whitley, 1939 in its longer snout, smaller, posteroventrally sloping dorsal fins, smaller anal fin, fewer small dark brown spots (sometimes absent), dark bands that occasionally encircle the tail, lower vertebral counts, and smaller size.

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The genus *Atelomycterus* was proposed by Garman (1913) for *Scyllium marmoratum* Bennett, 1830, which has a wide range in the Indo-West Pacific from India and Pakistan to Malaya, Singapore, Indonesia, New Guinea, Thailand, Viet Nam, Philippines, southern China, and Taiwan (Fowler, 1941, Springer, 1979, Compagno, 1984, 1988). Whitley (1939) named a second species, *A. macleayi*, from Queensland, Western Australia and Northern Territory. *Atelomycterus macleayi* is readily separable from *A. marmoratus* (Bennett, 1830) by colouration and clasper morphology (Compagno, 1984, 1988).

McKay (1966) recorded *A. marmoratus* from Western Australia based on three specimens, but examination of his material in the Western Australian

Museum (Perth) revealed two species: a hatchling *A. macleayi* and two specimens of a new species of *Atelomycterus* that differs from *A. macleayi* and *A. marmoratus* in colouration, morphometrics, clasper structure, vertebral counts, and smaller size (Compagno, 1984, 1988).

Recent offshore trawl surveys on the outer continental shelves and upper slopes of Australia (Gloerfelt-Tarp & Kailola, 1984; Davis & Ward, 1984; Sainsbury *et al.*, 1985; Gorman & Graham, 1985; Williams, 1987) produced a wealth of specimens of scyliorhinid catsharks along with many other sharks and bony fishes. Included in these collections is much additional material of the new *Atelomycterus*, which is described here as *A. fasciatus* new species.