

NOTE

**The shark *Carcharhinus galapagensis* from Salas y Gómez Island, Chile
(Chondrichthyes: Carcharhinidae)**

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This shark has been listed among Chilean species based on Randall and Cea-Egaña (1984), who gave a listing of vernacular names for the fishes of Easter Island (Pequeño 1989). Grove and Lavenberg (1997) record having photographed *Carcharhinus galapagensis* (Snodgrass and Heller 1905) at Salas y Gomez Is. There are no data to our knowledge of anyone examining specimens captured at either Easter Is. or Salas y Gomez Is. The distribution of *C. galapagensis* is generally discontinuous, including a broad range of distribution in both Atlantic and Pacific oceans, even to Japan (Taniuchi *et al.* 1985). The present study confirms the presence of this species in this isolated area using specimens caught on the CIMAR-5 Cruise. Both females, were obtained by hook and line fishing at a depth of over 25 m at Salas y Gomez Island (26° 28' S, 105° 21' W) on 7 Nov. 1999. One specimen measuring 1200 mm TL (Total length) was numbered IZUA-PM-2144 and the other of 790 mm IZUA-PM-2145, in the Collection of Fishes of the Instituto de Zoología, Universidad Austral de Chile. The mandibles of the specimens were compared with a known *C. galapagensis* mandible obtained from the California Academy of Sciences (CAS 39607) representing a 126 cm TL male from the Galapagos Islands.

There was a high concordance of diagnostic characteristics between our specimens and literature data on *C. galapagensis*.

Among the differences observed, the most notable was the length of the posterior margin of the first dorsal fin which was practically triple that cited by previous authors. The dental formula of our specimens was coincident with that of the mandible observed (CAS 39607). The smaller specimen (a) and larger specimen (b) showed the following dental formulae:

(a)	(b)
$\frac{11 - 1 - 12}{11 - 1 - 11}$	$\frac{13 - 1 - 14}{14 - 1 - 14}$

The central mandibular teeth were triangular in shape, with small serrations on both free borders. Toward the edge of the mandibles, the teeth showed more inclined cuspids, but always serrate. Only one row of replacement teeth was observed on the lower mandible, and was more visible than those of the upper mandible which were covered by dental epithelium.

According to Easter Is. fishermen, *C. galapagensis* is the only shark found at Salas y Gomez, where it is said to be abundant. This is the first instance in which analysis of

taxonomic characteristics have been used to verify the shark's identity and analyze variations in specific characters for comparative purposes which might indicate local differentiation of the species.

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