

Scoliodon

Classification

Kingdom : Animalia

Phylum : Chordata

Class : Chondrichthyes

Order : Carcharhiniforms

Family : Carcharhinidae

Genus : Scoliodon



Characteristics :

For further details, [Link](#)

- Scoliodon, commonly called the dogfish or dog shark, is a predatory, cartilaginous fish with a spindle-shaped, laterally compressed body, characterized by a dark grey dorsal side and white ventral side.
- **Body Shape:** Streamlined, spindle-shaped, and laterally compressed for efficient swimming.
- **Coloration:** Dark grey or pigmented on the dorsal and lateral sides, with a white or pale ventral (underside) surface.
- **Size:** Typically grows up to 60 cm in length.
- **Covering:** The body is covered in tiny, rough placoid scales, providing a rough texture.
- **Fins:** Possesses paired pectoral and pelvic fins and median dorsal fins and a heterocercal tail.
- **Sexual Dimorphism:** Males have a pair of claspers, which are absent in females.
- **Skin:** Covered by a rough exoskeleton of placoid scales, giving it a coarse texture.
- **Mouth and Teeth:** Has a ventral mouth with a crescent shape, and its jaws contain multiple rows of smooth, blade-like teeth adapted for tearing food.
- **Eyes:** Equipped with large, movable nictitating membranes to protect the eyes from injury and debris.

Habit (Behavior)

- **Diet:** Carnivorous and predaceous, feeding on small fish, crustaceans, and worms.
- **Swimming:** An active and fast swimmer due to its streamlined body and powerful tail.
- **Feeding:** A voracious feeder, using its strong jaws to capture prey.
- **Reproduction:** Exhibits internal fertilization and direct development, giving birth to living young (viviparous).

Habitat

- **General:** A marine species, though some species can be found in estuaries and occasionally ascend rivers.
- **Geographic Distribution:** Widely distributed in the Indo-Pacific region, including the waters of India, Australia, and Indonesia.
- **Water Type:** Found in both deep and shallow waters but most commonly in warm, coastal waters and continental shelves.
- **Sensitivity to Environmental Changes:** Its limited fecundity makes the Scoliodon genus vulnerable to threats like overfishing and habitat degradation.