


# ICHTHYOLOGY

at the Florida Museum of Natural History 

[HOME](#)   [COLLECTION](#)   [EDUCATION](#)   [IMAGE GALLERY](#)   [SOUTH FLORIDA](#)   [ORGANIZATIONS](#)   [MEETINGS](#)   [STAFF](#)  
[SHARK](#)   [TROPICAL RESEARCH](#)   [FRESHWATER RESEARCH](#)   [BIOLOGICAL PROFILES](#)   [JUST FOR KIDS](#)   [IN THE NEWS](#)   [SITE](#)   [LINKS](#)   [FLMNH](#)

## Education

### Biological Profiles

 **SEARCH**

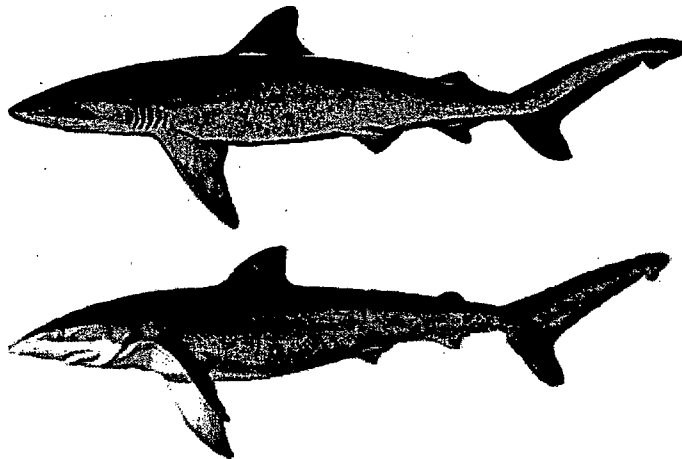

#### DUSKY SHARK

Order: Carcharhiniformes

Family: Carcharhinidae

Genus: *Carcharhinus*

Species: *obscurus*



Above: ex Kato, Springer & Wagner (1967) Bur. Comm. Fish. Circ. 271  
 Below: Photo by George Burgess©

#### Taxonomy

Lessueur first described the dusky shark in 1818 and classified it as *Squalus obscurus*, later renaming it the currently valid name *Carcharhinus obscurus*. The genus name *Carcharhinus* is derived from the Greek "karcharos" = sharpen and "rhinos" = nose. *Obscurus* can be translated from Latin as "dark, indistinct." Since its original description, this shark has appeared in the literature under several different names, including *Geleolamna greyi* Owen 1853, *Carcharias macrurus* Ramsay & Ogilby 1887, *Galeolamna (Galeolamnoides) eblis* Whitley 1944, *Carcharhinus iranxae* Fourmanoir 1961, and *Carcharhinus obscurella* Deng, Xiong & Zhan 1981.

#### Common Names

Common English language names for this shark include bay-shark, black whaler, bronze whaler, brown dusky shark, brown shark, common whaler, dusky ground shark, dusky shark, shark, and shovelnose. Other names include arenero (Spanish), blauhai (German), cação fidalgo (Portuguese), cazón (Spanish), donkerhaai (Afrikaans), dotabuka (Japanese), estrela (Portuguese), karcharynos skotinochromos (Greek), köpek baligi (Turkish), lamia (Spanish), marracho areneiro (Portuguese), requiem de sable (French), schemerhaai (Dutch), squalo scuro (Italian), sumuhai (Finnish), tiburón arenero (Spanish), and zarlacz ciemnoskóry (Polish).

#### Geographical Distribution

The dusky shark is a cosmopolitan species that occurs along continental coastlines in tropical and temperate waters. It ranges from Nova Scotia to Cuba (including the northern Gulf of Mexico) and from Nicaragua to southern Brazil in the