



PUDUCHERRY ENVIS HUB

Host Centre: Puducherry Pollution Control Committee
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Shark Awareness Day

14th July, 2021

Pondicherry Shark

Scientific Name: *Carcharhinus hemiodon* (J.P. Muller & Henle, 1839)

Common Name: Ground Sharks, Pondicherry Shark, Long nosed shark and Requin baliai

Description: It is identified by its 'black tips' of dorsal, pectoral and Tail fins.

Distribution: The Pondicherry shark appears to have been broadly distributed in the Indo-Pacific region but are believed to be found mostly near India..

IUCN status: Critically Endangered.



Photo Courtesy: The Hindu

Average Size and Length: The maximum size reached by the Pondicherry shark is uncertain due to a lack of large specimens but is probably not much greater than 3.3 feet in length.

Teeth and Jaw: The mouth of the Pondicherry shark does not have furrows or enlarged pores at the corners. The upper and lower jaws contain 14–15 and 12–14 tooth rows on either side. There are one or two rows of small teeth at the upper and lower symphyses. The upper teeth have a single narrow, smooth-edged central cusp, flanked on both sides by very large serrations. The lower teeth are narrower and more upright than the uppers, and may be smooth to finely serrated.

Head: The Pondicherry shark has a moderately long, pointed snout. They have large circular eyes with nictitating membranes. Each nostril is broad with a small, narrow lobe on the anterior rim.

Denticles: The Pondicherry shark has overlapping dermal denticles. Each denticle has 3 horizontal ridges leading to 3 (on occasion 5) marginal teeth.

Tail: The caudal peduncle has a deep crescent-shaped notch at the upper caudal fin origin. The asymmetrical caudal fin has a well-developed lower lobe and a longer upper lobe with a notch in the trailing margin near the tip.

Diet: The diet of the Pondicherry shark is thought to consist of small bony fishes, cephalopods, and crustaceans.

Biology and Reproduction: A parasite found in the Pondicherry shark is the tapeworm *Acanthobothrium paramanandai*. The Pondicherry shark is viviparous. The smallest known specimen is a female 13 inches long, which may be close to the birth size. Sexual maturity is attained at a length of over 24 inches.

It is among the 25 'most wanted lost' species that are the focus of Global Wildlife Conservation's "Search for Lost Species" initiative.