



A taxonomic revision of the catshark genus *Haploblepharus* Garman 1913 (Chondrichthyes: Carcharhiniformes: Scyliorhinidae)

BRETT A. HUMAN

Previous Address: Shark Research Centre, South African Museum, Iziko - Museums of Cape Town, PO Box 61, Cape Town 8000, South Africa.

Current Address: Marine Science and Fisheries Centre (Ministry for Agriculture and Fisheries), PO Box 467, PC 100 Muscat, Sultanate of Oman. E-mail: brett@maf.gov.om

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Abstract

This paper examines the alpha level taxonomy of the genus *Haploblepharus* Garman, 1913 (Chondrichthyes; Scyliorhinidae). Three species are endemic to South Africa, with one species occurring in Namibia and South Africa. *Haploblepharus pictus* exhibits considerable colour variation which has led to some confusion between that species and *H. edwardsii*, resulting in a significant range extension for *H. pictus*. A neotype is designated for *H. edwardsii*, and problematic *Haploblepharus* juveniles are tentatively assigned to *H. kistnasamyi*. A novel species identification key is presented for *Haploblepharus*, and a comprehensive review of the taxonomy (including type material and synonyms) and distribution of all taxa is presented. The genus *Haploblepharus* contains four contemporary taxa: *H. edwardsii* (Schinz, 1822), *H. pictus* (Müller & Henle, 1838), *H. fuscus* Smith, 1950, and *H. kistnasamyi* Human & Compagno, 2006.

Key words: Scyliorhinidae, *Haploblepharus edwardsii*, *Haploblepharus fuscus*, *Haploblepharus kistnasamyi*, *Haploblepharus pictus*, taxonomy, revision, southern Africa