

A taxonomic revision of the catshark genus *Holohalaelurus* Fowler 1934 (Chondrichthyes: Carcharhiniformes: Scyliorhinidae), with descriptions of two new species

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Abstract

This paper examines the alpha level taxonomy of the genus *Holohalaelurus* Fowler 1934 (Chondrichthyes: Carcharhiniformes: Scyliorhinidae), which is endemic to southern and east Africa. A novel species identification key is presented for *Holohalaelurus*, and a comprehensive review of the taxonomy (including type material and synonyms) and distribution of all taxa is presented. *Holohalaelurus regani* (Gilchrist 1922) is restricted to southern Africa and the taxa that occur in tropical east Africa are discrete taxonomic units, resulting in the resurrection of *H. melanostigma* Norman 1939, and two new species, which are described here. *Holohalaelurus polystigma* (Regan 1921) is shown to be a junior synonym of *H. punctatus* (Gilchrist 1914), the