

## **Anatomical investigation of the slender catshark *Schroederichthys tenuis* Springer, 1966, with notes on intrageneric relationships (Chondrichthyes: Carcharhiniformes: Scyliorhinidae)**

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### **Abstract**

The slender catshark *Schroederichthys tenuis* Springer, 1966, originally described from two immature males, is redescribed on the basis of 12 specimens of both sexes, juveniles and adults (as well as the holotype and paratype). The supplementary specimens were collected off the northern coast of Brazil between Amapá and Pará states. Aspects of its external morphology, color pattern, dermal denticles, dentition, vertebral counts, and the cephalic, clasper and pectoral fin skeleton are described in detail and fully illustrated. These features are compared with those of congeneric species. Our observations support preliminary results of work in progress that *S. maculatus* Springer, 1966, *S. tenuis* and *S. saurisqualus* Soto, 2003 form a monophyletic group, mostly on the basis of neurocranial morphology, and that *S. bivius* (Smith, 1838) and *S. chilensis* (Guichenot, 1848) should be removed from *Schroederichthys*.

**Key words:** *Schroederichthys tenuis*, Scyliorhinidae, anatomical description, phylogenetic relationships, western South Atlantic Ocean

### **Introduction**

Sharks of the genus *Schroederichthys* Springer, 1966 are small to medium-sized catsharks (Scyliorhinidae) restricted to temperate and tropical waters of South and Central America, occurring on the continental shelf and upper slope (Compagno, 1984, 1988). The genus