

## ***Etmopterus burgessi* sp. nov., a new species of lanternshark (Squaliformes: Etmopteridae) from Taiwan**

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### **Abstract**

A new species of lanternshark, *Etmopterus burgessi* **sp. nov.**, is described from four specimens collected in deepwater off northeastern Taiwan. The new species closely resembles other members of the “*Etmopterus lucifer* group” in having longitudinal rows of dermal denticles, but can be distinguished from congeners based on the following characters: snout width, gill slit length, caudal peduncle length, second dorsal fin height, the arrangement of flank and caudal markings, tooth morphology, and the presence or absence of dermal denticles. The new species has a broader snout and gill length proportionally longer than other western North Pacific *Etmopterus* species. Proportionally, *E. burgessi* has a shorter second dorsal fin height and caudal peduncle length than other *Etmopterus* species. In addition, both the second dorsal fin and ventral snout surface of *E. burgessi* have conspicuous dermal denticles. A final distinguishing character of *E. burgessi* is the flank marking, which resembles *E. lucifer*.

**Key-words:** Elasmobranchii, Squaliformes, Etmopteridae, *Etmopterus*, Taiwan

### **Introduction**

The deep-sea elasmobranchs commonly known as lanternsharks (Squaliformes: Etmopteridae: *Etmopterus*) have received an unusual level of systematic study over the past two decades (Yamakawa et al., 1986; Yano, 1988; Last et al., 2002). Sharks of the genus *Etmopterus* are small enigmatic sharks widely distributed in temperate and tropical waters around seamounts and along continental margins. Of the 31 recognized species in the genus, Compagno et al. (2005) reports that about one half have been described within the last 20 years. It was previously thought that the genus was comprised of a few widespread members. Deepwater trawls in the Western Pacific by both research agencies and commercial fisheries have revealed new fish fauna. Unique species of etmopterids are