

# Echinorhinidae

## Bramble and Prickly Sharks

Taxonomy: 1 genus, 2 species

Order Squaliformes

Family Echinorhinidae

Genus *Echinorhinus*

*E. cookie*- prickly shark: numerous small denticles, up to 4m in length

*E. brucus*- bramble shark: few large denticles (may form plates), large denticles on ventral snout, up to 3m in length

Morphology

Spiracles present, large gill openings, 2 dorsal fins (posterior to pelvic fins), short snout, broadly

arched mouth, multicuspidate teeth, large pelvic fins, lack anal fin, elongate, cylindrical, soft body

Can be confused with Greenland shark: dorsal fin position, tail shape, gill slit size differ

Biology

Reproduction: aplacental ovoviviparous, probably late onset maturity

*E. brucus*- 15-24 pups/litter

Feeding Habits: carnivorous- benthic bony fish, sharks, crabs, squid, octopus  
may be suction feeders- mouth and pharynx size

Behavior: sluggish, harmless

Habitat and Distribution

Worldwide, temperate to tropical; continental shelves/slopes 11-900m, demersal/benthic

Human concerns

Negative: none, no recorded attacks

Positive: little; bycatch used as fishmeal and medicinal purposes (S. Africa)

Conservation Status

*E. brucus*: data deficient

*E. cookie*: near threatened

Research

Not much- primary literature consists of accounts of a specimen in a region