

# Family Pseudotriakidae "False Catsharks" and "Gollumsharks"

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Genera: *Gollum*, *Pseudotriakis*, and 1 undescribed

Species: *Gollum* = *attenuatus* + 2 undescribed

*Pseudotriakis* = *microdon*

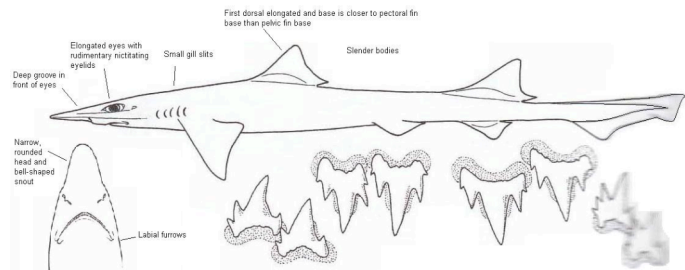
Undescribed = 1 (Pygmy false catshark)

## Diagnostic Characteristics

- ∞ Size varies from small to large sharks (56-295cm)
- ∞ No barbels or nasoral grooves
- ∞ Labial furrows short, but always present

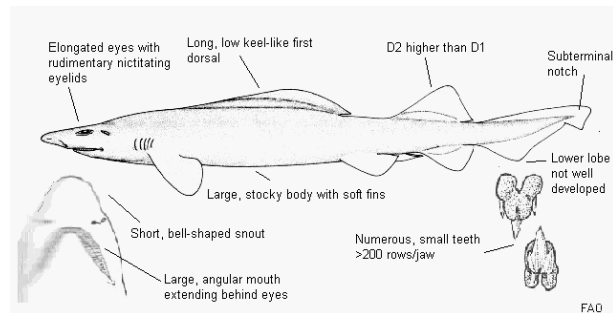
### Slender Smooth-Hound *Gollum attenuatus*

- ∞ Unpatterned grayish
- ∞ Small sharks
- ∞ Most <100cm
- ∞ Maximum size 110cm



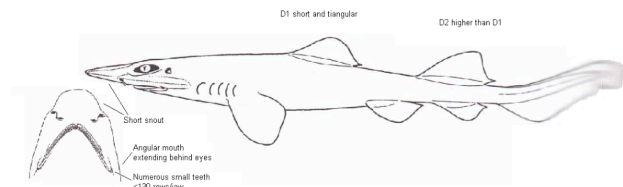
### False Catshark *Pseudotriakis microdon*

- ∞ Dark on posterior edge of dorsal, anal, caudal, and pelvic fin
- ∞ Large, deepwater benthic shark
- ∞ Size range 150-300cm; max 296cm
- ∞ Usually dark brownish-grey
- ∞ Soft fins, musculature, and skin; presumed to be inactive and sluggish



### Pygmy False Catshark Undescribed

- ∞ Dark grey-brown with dark fins
- ∞ Moderately stocky, soft body
- ∞ Maximum size >56cm



## Distribution and Habitat

- ∞ Little known
- ∞ No recognized fossil record of this family
- ∞ Outer continental and insular slopes; sometimes found over shelves
- ∞ Benthic and benthopelagic

### *Gollum* spp.

- ∞ Found between 129-724m; greatest abundance between 300-600m
- ∞ Bathydemersal
- ∞ Seems adapted to 10°C water temperature
- ∞ Found in the Southwest Pacific
  - *G. attenuatus* endemic to New Zealand and adjacent oceanic ridges
  - *Gollum* species A – Sulu sea, Philippines
  - *Gollum* species B – New Caledonia

### *Pseudotriakis microdon*

- ∞ Found between 200-1890m
- ∞ Wide-ranging; found in W Atlantic, NE Atlantic, Indian, and Pacific Ocean
  - Not yet found in the S Atlantic or E Pacific

## Pygmy False Catshark

- ∞ Arabian Sea and Maldives (NW Indian Ocean)
- ∞ Down to 1120m

### **Biology**

- ∞ Aplacental viviparity
- ∞ Oophagous (First fully documented report of oophagy in a non-Lamnoid shark)
- ∞ Matrophagy, oophagy, and uterine milk
- ∞ Embryos feed on ova to replenish external yolk sac (only seen in Fam. Pseudotriakidae)
- ∞ Extremely low fecundity of 2 pups/litter
- ∞ *Gollum attenuatus*.
  - Males and females reach maturity at ~70cm TL
  - Pups are born at ~40cm TL
- ∞ *Pseudotriakis microdon*
  - Males mature at 200-269cm and females at 212-295cm
  - Young born at 120-150cm TL
  - 20,000 ova (9mm) found in a 280cm female
  - Unknown gestation time; thought to be at least one year, possibly 2-3 years

### **Diet**

- ∞ Feed on sharks, teleosts, gastropods, cephalopods, crustaceans, and other invertebrates

### **Status**

- ∞ No interest by fisheries
- ∞ Caught as bycatch from bottom trawl and bottom longlines
- ∞ Thought to have a low resilience; minimum population doubling time of 14 years
- ∞ No information of population size or status
- ∞ Considered harmless to humans

#### *Gollum spp.*

- ∞ IUCN species of least concern
- ∞ A large part of their range is outside fished areas (Norfolk and Three Kings Ridges)

#### *Pseudotriakis microdon*

- ∞ IUCN listed as data deficient
- ∞ No conservation efforts in effect, however this species would benefit from a deep sea marine protected area to preserve habitat

## Pygmy False Catshark

- ∞ IUCN – not evaluated

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