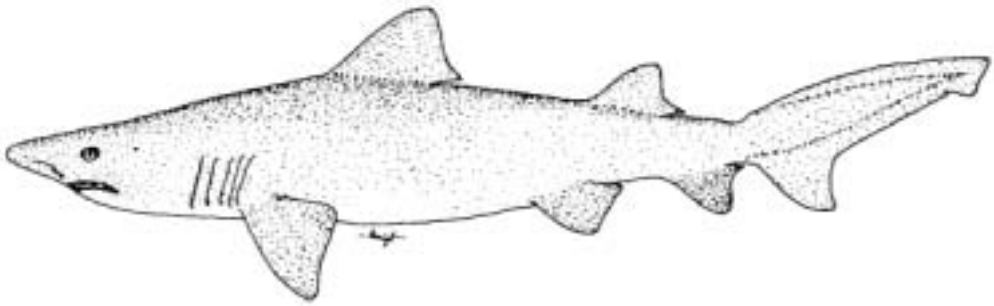
Odontaspisferox (Risso, 1810)



English Name:	Small tooth sand tiger shark	Family:	ODONTASPIDIDAE
Local Name:	Theyo miyaru, Meedhaa miyaru	**Order:**	Lamniformes
Size:	Max. 3.6 m	Specimen:	MRS/0402/92

Distinctive Characters: A large, bulky shark. Snout moderately elongated and roundly conical. Eyes moderately large. Distinctive, long, narrow sharp teeth with 2 cusplets on each side. Typically 4 (sometimes 3) rows of small teeth on each side of upper jaw between large anterior and lateral teeth.

Colour: Grey; pale below. May be spotted.

Habitat and Biology: Occurs in deep continental and insular shelves and upper slopes at depths of 13-420 m. Feeds on small bony fishes, squids and shrimps. Takes smaller and possibly less active prey. Reproduction is unknown in this species but presumably ovoviviparous.

Distribution: Temperate and tropical waters.

Remarks: *Odontaspisferox* is sometimes caught by bottom-set gillnets laid down at the reef slopes. More commonly it is caught by deep vertical long lines set outside the atolls for spiny dogfish *('kashi mivaru keyolhu kan').* Its Dhivehi names includes *Theyo miyaru'* (oil shark, on account of its large liver) and *'Meedhaa miyaru'* (rat shark, on account of its appearance). Not implicated in attacks on people.

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