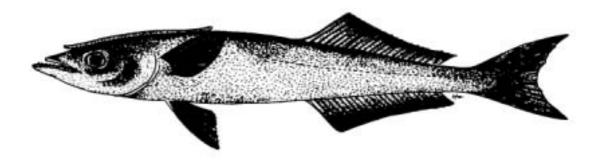
Remora remora (Linnaeus, 1766)



English Name:Brown remoraFamily:ECHENEIDAELocal Name:AttamasOrder:PerciformesSize:Max. 62 cmSpecimen:MRS/0016/86

Distinctive Characters: Dorsal fin with 22-26 rays. Anal fin with 22-24 rays. Pectoral rays 26-30. Body depth about 7.5 in standard length. Body elongate and moderately robust. Depressed head with a sucking disc which does not extend posteriorly as far as end of depressed pectoral fin. Sucking disc with 15-19 laminae. Pectoral fin short and round. Caudal fin emarginate. Scales minute and indistinct.

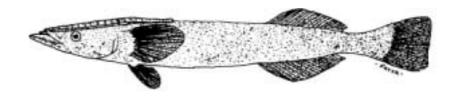
Colour: Uniform dusky brown to almost black.

Habitat and Biology: In coastal and oceanic waters. Brown remoras attach themselves to a variety of fishes including sharks, marlins and turtles. They feed mainly on scraps that result from the feeding activities of their host. In addition, they sometimes eat parasitic cnistaceans that attach on their host.

Distribution: Circumtropical.

Remarks: The remoras (like *Remora remora*) are easily distinguished by the sucking disc on the top of the head, which represents a modification of the spinous dorsal fin.

Remorina albescens (Temminck and Schiegel, 1845)



English Name:White remoraFamily:ECHENEIDAELocal Name:Hudhu attamasOrder:PerciformesSize:Max. 30 cmSpecimen:MRS/0367/91

Distinctive Characters: Dorsal fin with 17-22 rays. Anal fin with 21-26 rays. Pectoral rays 18-21. Body depth about 7.5 in standard length. Head with sucking disc, containing 13-14 laminae. Pelvic fins narrowly attached to abdomen.

Colour: Pale grey to white.

Habitat **and** Biology: Usually associated with manta rays (family Mobulidae), attaching near mouth, in mouth cavity and gill chambers.

Distribution: Circumglobal.

Remarks: The white remora, *Remorina albescens*, is probably fairly common in the Maldives, but it is almost never seen, by either divers or fishermen, because it usually lives in the mouth cavities of manta rays. The specimen on which this record is based was taken from a manta ray caught during an offshore fishing survey, on 26 November 1988.