

# Galápagos ISLANDS

NEW FISH RECORDS in the

FIGURE 1

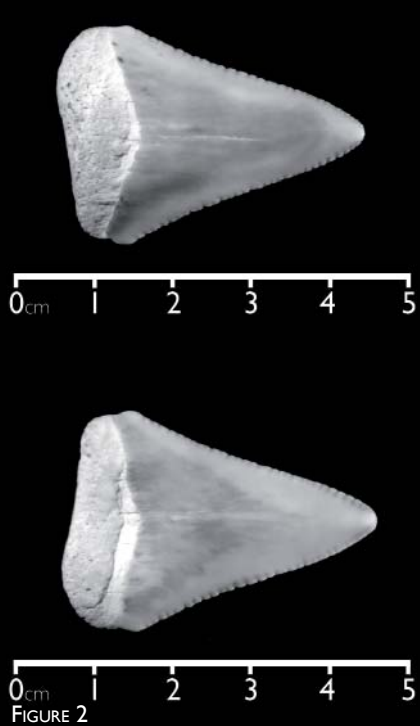


FIGURE 3

In 1995, a complete survey of the fish collection in the Charles Darwin Research Station (CDRS) Museum (Galápagos Islands, Ecuador) was undertaken. Five specimens represented possible new records to the archipelago, but insufficient material was available at CDRS to confirm identification.

The Galápagos Archipelago is a conservation hotspot of fish biodiversity and one of the world's top-ranked areas based on the percentage of endemism. The ichthyofauna is more diverse in the Galápagos Islands than other Eastern Tropical Pacific islands, and if endemics are excluded, the shallow ichthyofauna in the Galápagos Islands comprises a mosaic of elements from the Panamic, Chilean, western Pacific and Atlantic faunas.

In November 2007, the five specimens were removed from the CDRS fish collection on loan to the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History (LACM) where X-rays, scientific keys and other resources were used to confirm the identity of the specimens. Four of the five specimens were incorrectly identified in 1995, the fifth, the golden trevally, *Gnathodon speciosus*, is the first confirmed record of this species for the Galápagos. One of the originally mis-identified specimens, the longnose anchovy (*Anchoa nasus*), proved to be *A. ischana* (sharpnose anchovy), and *A. nasus* can now be eliminated as a record from the islands. Photographic and video evidence also confirmed the first record of the sharp-tail mola, *Masturus lanceolatus*, for the archipelago. Also found in the study was the first physical evidence of the white shark, *Carcharodon carcharias*, in the Galápagos Archipelago based on the discovery of a tooth and C<sup>14</sup> analysis.

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#### OTHER MARINE BIODIVERSITY RECORDS PUBLICATIONS:

Todd, V.L.G. & Grove, J.S., 2010. First records of golden trevally (*Gnathodon speciosus*, Carangidae), sharp-tail mola (*Masturus lanceolatus*, Molidae) and evidence for white shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*, Lamnidae) in the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador. *Marine Biodiversity Records*, **3(e104)**, Published online by Cambridge University Press.

#### FIGURES

FIGURE 1—The sharp-tail mola, *Masturus lanceolatus*. FIGURE 2—White Shark, *Carcharodon carcharias* teeth. FIGURE 3—X-ray of the sharpnose anchovy, *Anchoa ischana*.