Order LAMNIFORMES

Ragged-Tooth Sharks

Family ODONTASPIDIDAE
Müller & Henle 1839

Odontaspis
Agassiz 1838

etymology not explained, presumably odontos (Gr.), tooth, and aspis (Gr.), shield, perhaps referring to how teeth comprise a prominent narrow cusp provided with two or more small “side teeth” (translation), i.e., cusplets, which, with some imagination, could be said to “shield” the main cusp; another explanation: aspis (L.), viper, perhaps referring to outwardly pointing teeth of O. ferox, like that of a viper

Odontaspis ferox (Risso 1810) Latin for fierce, possibly referring to what Risso described as its “La voracité extrême” and/or its toothy and ferocious countenance

Odontaspis noronhai

(Maul 1955) in honor of Adolfo César de Noronha (1873–1963), late director of the Funchal Museum (Madeira), where holotype is housed