

Supplementary material

**Abundance, distribution and reproduction of the Data-Deficient species
(*Squalus blainville*) around Sardinia Island (central western Mediterranean Sea)
as a contribution to its conservation**

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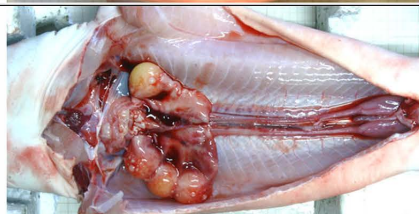
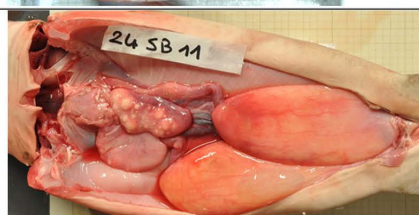


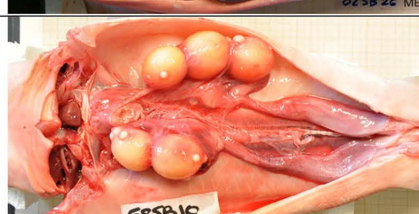
STAGE	DESCRIPTION	PHOTO
1 Immature	The ovary is barely visible or small and whitish; the ovarian follicles are not visible. The oviducal gland may be slightly visible. The uterus is thread-like and narrow.	
2 Developing	The ovary is enlarged with small follicles (oocytes) of different sizes. Some relatively larger yellow follicles may be present. The ovary lacks atretic follicles. The oviducal gland and the uterus are developing.	
3a Capable of reproducing	The large ovary has enlarged yolk follicles that have all the same size, hence they can be easily distinguished. The oviducal gland and the uterus are developed. The uterus is not dilated and does not contain yolk matter and embryos.	
3b Early pregnancy	The uteri are fully and rounded with yolk content (usually candle-shaped). In general, the segments cannot be discernible, and embryos cannot be observed.	
3c Mid pregnancy	The uteri are well filled and rounded, often with visible segments. The embryos are always visible and small, and with a relatively large yolk sac.	
3d Late pregnancy	The embryos are fully formed; the yolk sacs are reduced or absent. The embryos can be easily measured and sexed.	
4a Regressing	The ovaries are shrunken without follicle development and with atretic (degenerating) follicles. The diameter of the oviducal glands may be decreasing. The uterus appears much enlarged, collapsed, empty and reddish.	
4b Regenerating	The ovary has small follicles at different stages of development including atretic ones. The uterus is enlarged with flaccid walls. The oviducal gland is discernible.	NOT FOUND

Fig. S1. Maturity scale of *Squalus blainville* females.

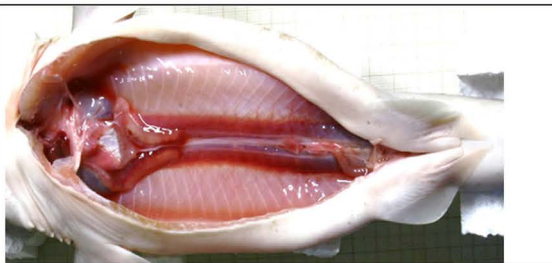




STAGE	DESCRIPTION	PHOTO
1 Immature	The claspers are flexible and shorter than pelvic fins. The testis is small. The sperm ducts are straight and thread-like.	
2 Developing	The claspers are slightly more robust but still flexible. They are as long as or longer than pelvic fins. The testis is enlarged; in sharks, testis starts to segment. The sperm ducts are developing and beginning to meander.	
3a Capable of reproducing	The claspers are fully formed, and the skeleton is hardened and rigid and is generally longer than the pelvic fins. The testis is greatly enlarged; in sharks, the testis is fully segmented. The sperm ducts are tightly coiled and filled with sperm.	
3b Actively spawning	The description is similar to stage 3a, but with clasper glands dilated, often swollen and reddish. The sperm is often present in the clasper grooves or glands. Under pressure, sperm is observed flowing out of the cloaca or in the sperm ducts.	
4 Regressing	The claspers are fully formed, similar to stage 3. The testis and sperm ducts are shrunken and flaccid.	

Fig. S2. Maturity scale of *Squalus blainville* males.