

were obtained with the two sharks. They were seen to shift their position on the sharks frequently as these struggled in the water fast hooked.

The Remora is a fish provided, as a means of attachment, with an oval sucker divided into a series of vacuum chambers by transverse pleats. The sucker is placed on the back of the fish's head. The animal thus constantly applies to the surfaces to which it attaches itself, such as the shark's skin, its back. Hence the back being always less exposed to light is light-coloured, whereas the belly, which is constantly outermost and exposed, is of a dark chocolate colour. The familiar distribution of colour existing in most other fish is thus reversed. No doubt the object of the arrangement is to render the fish less conspicuous on the brown back of the shark. Were its belly light-coloured as usual, the adherent fish would be visible from a great distance against the dark background. The result is that when the fish is seen alive it is difficult to persuade oneself at first that the sucker is not on the animal's belly, and that the dark exposed surface is not its back. The form of the fish, which has the back flattened and the belly raised and rounded, strengthens the illusion. When the fish is preserved in spirits the colour becomes of a uniform chocolate, and this curious effect is lost. When one of these fish, a foot in length, has its wet sucker applied to a table and is allowed time to lay hold, it adheres so tightly that it is impossible to pull it off by a fair vertical strain.

Fishing for sharks was a constant sport on board the ship when a halt was made to dredge anywhere within a hundred miles or so of land in the tropics. Sharks were not met with in mid-ocean. Mr. Murray\* examined these sharks thus caught, and reports that they all, whether obtained in the Atlantic or Pacific Ocean, belonged to one widely distributed species, excepting one other kind obtained off the coasts of Japan. The hammer-headed shark (*Zygæna malleus*) was taken by us only with a net on the coasts.

The sharks were often seen attended by one or more Pilot-fish (*Naucrates sp.*), as well as bearing the "Suckers" attached to them. I often watched with astonishment from the deck this curious association of three so widely different fish, as it glided round the ship like a single compound organism.

The sharks, as a rule, were not by any means so easily caught as I had expected. Frequently they were shy and would not take a bait near the ship, though they never failed to bite if it was floated some distance astern by means of a wooden float. It is always worth while for naturalists to take

\* J. Murray, "Proc. R. Soc.," No. 170, 1876, p. 540.