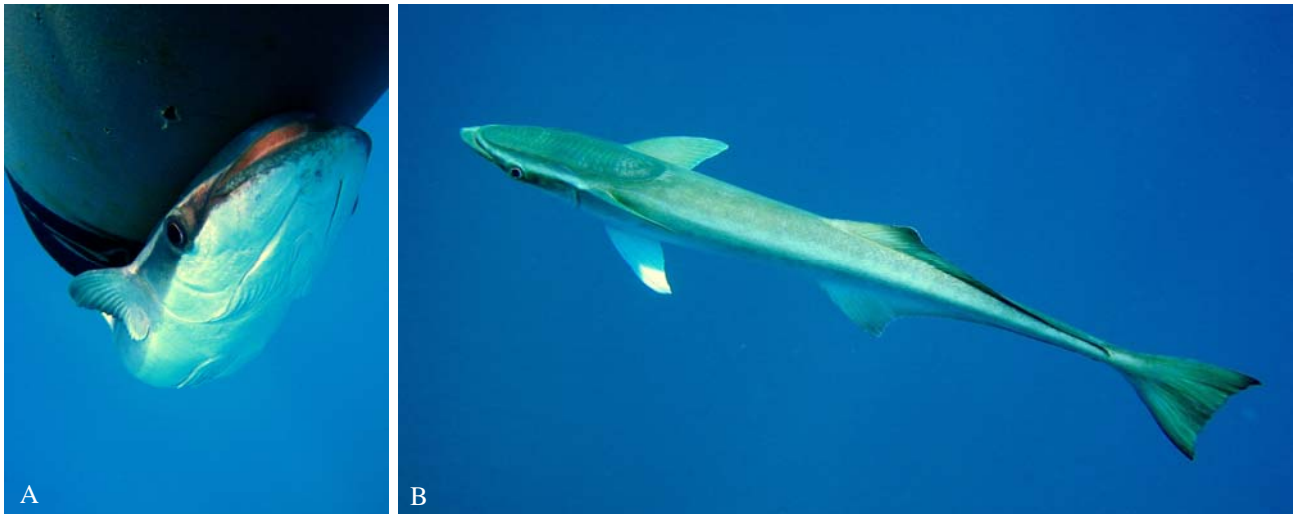




Echeneis naucrates (Linnaeus) (Perciformes, Echeneidae), unusual interaction with a diver

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The remora, *Echeneis naucrates* Linnaeus, 1758, is already known to attach to a variety of hosts including, marine turtles (Sazima & Grossman, 2006), cetaceans (Santos & Sazima, 2005), elasmobranches and teleost fishes (at least 38 fish species), including conspecifics (Brunnschweiler & Sazima, 2006) and divers (Carvalho-Filho, 1999). Remora's suction disk is the result of a modified first dorsal fin, which migrated anteriorly onto the neurocranium and underwent a series of morphological modifications (Fulcher & Motta, 2006). On January 21st, 2005, during an offshore dive operation in Salvador (BA, Brazil), two remoras approached a dive group swimming close and following the group for 10 minutes. When a regular speed was kept by the photographer (8 m depth), one of the remoras (approximately 45 cm total length) positioned and attached to the diver. It remained attached for over a minute, detaching and attaching again, repositioning to the diver's right thigh during this short period of time. CLS Sampaio (pers. com.) also reports two other similar registers (15 and 35 cm total length), attached to the diver's belly, at the same dive place on JAN and FEB 2005 and similar depths during a SCUBA decompression stop. Picture Characteristics: Canon PowerShot S70; Resolution of 7 megapixels (180 dpi); autofocus; Speed ISO-50; diaphragm aperture 2.8; time of exposition 1/250 A; time of exposition 1/400 B. Canon Housing WP-DC40.

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