An “epaulette” is often referred to as an ornamental shoulder piece. In the case of this species, it refers to the large spot located on the “shoulder” above the pectoral fins.

Epaulettes are part of the carpet shark family (Hemiscylliidae). Their markings change greatly as they age.

There are 9 different Epaulette shark species. All known for their beautiful and unique patterns. Baby Epaulettes are born with dark stripes which fade over time.

Epaulettes lay eggs, also known as mermaid purses. The eggs are made out of keratin, the same stuff hair and a rhino’s horn is made of.

Epaulettes can turn half of their brain off when exposed to air. They can use their fins to “walk” along the coral reef, tide pool, etc. They live throughout the Indo-Pacific region.

When feeding they will often bury their head to find food items. Any inhaled sand is expelled through the gill slits.