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Rare sharks pay a visit

THE discovery of a species of shark never seen before in Australian waters has amazed scientists.

Shark biologist Ryan Kempster, of the University of Western Australia's Oceans Institute, said two sharks were identified as mandarin dogfish after a two-year investigation.

The rare sharks, a male just under a metre long and a pregnant female about 1.2m long, were caught off Rottnest Island at a depth of 430m.

Mr Kempster said the species had only previously been found in waters between Indonesia and Japan, and also off New Zealand.