

Accepted for the 41st CIESM Congress 2016

**VNTRS IN THE MTDNA CONTROL REGION OF THE BLUNTNONE SIXGILL SHARK,
*HEXANCHUS GRISEUS***

Noel Vella and Adriana Vella
Conservation Biology Research Group University of Malta

Abstract

In most shark species the mtDNA control region is approximately 1070bp. However, genetic analyses of *Hexanchus griseus* specimens collected from different locations, have led to the identification of a long mtDNA control region, ranging between 1570bp and 1752bp. This exceptionally long region contains a number of 45bp repeats which lead to the formation of VNTRs that are not evenly distributed globally but rather by geographical locations.