{rokbox title=|Muestreando el contenido estomacal de una raya :: Foto: Ana Morillas, COB-IEO| thumb=|images/stories/ieo/imagenespublicaciones/sm_vallsetsal_14072011_640_thumb.jpg|}images/stories/ieo/imagenespublicaciones/sm_vallsetsal_14072011_640.jpg{/rokbox}

Maria Valls, Antoni Quetglas, Francesc Ordines and Joan Moranta, (2011). **Feeding ecology of demersal elasmobranchs from the shelf and slope off the Balearic Sea (western Mediterranean).**
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Abstract: The feeding ecology of eight demersal elasmobranchs, three sharks (*Etmopterus spinax*, *Scyliorhinus canicula* and *Galeus melastomus*) and five batoids (*Myliobatis aquila*, *Leucoraja naevus*, *Raja polystigma*, *R. miraletus* and *R. clavata*), from the Balearic Sea (western Mediterranean) was analyzed. For each species, the diet and feeding habits were characterized by depth strata using quantitative indices such as diet overlap, diet breadth and prey diversity. Diet variation with size and depth were also tested for the most abundant species. For shelf-living species, natantian and reptantian crustaceans together with teleosts were the most important preys. On slope bottoms, euphausiids were the preferential prey for *S. canicula* and *G. melastomus*, while *E. spinax* fed mainly on cephalopods. The most specialist and generalist diet corresponded to *G. melastomus* living on the upper slope and S. canicula from the continental shelf, respectively. High overlap was found between all the skates on the continental shelf and the sympatric sharks

S. canicula
and
G. melastomus
on the slope. Significant overlap was also found between S. canicula and R. clavata on the continental shelf. Size was found to significantly affect the diet of
S. canicula
,
G. melastomus
and
R. clavata
, whereas depth affected exclusively
S. canicula
.

Keywords: Elasmobranch, batoid, shark, feeding habits, diet overlap, niche breadth, Mediterranean.