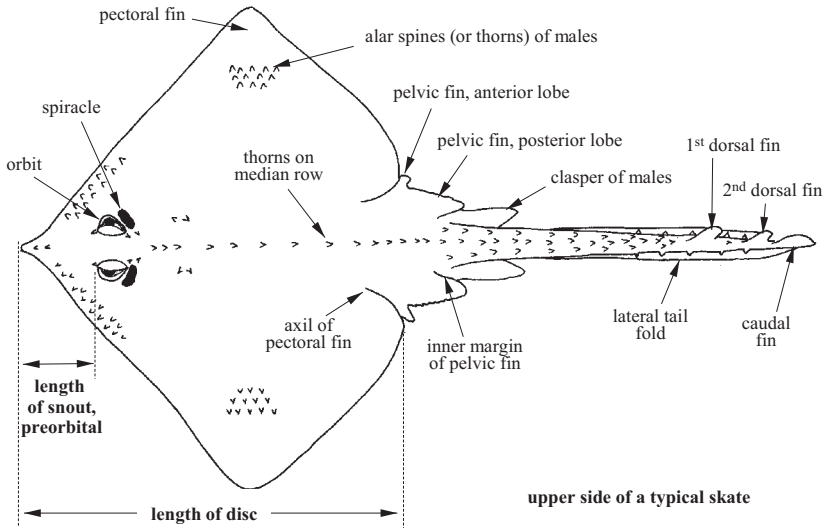
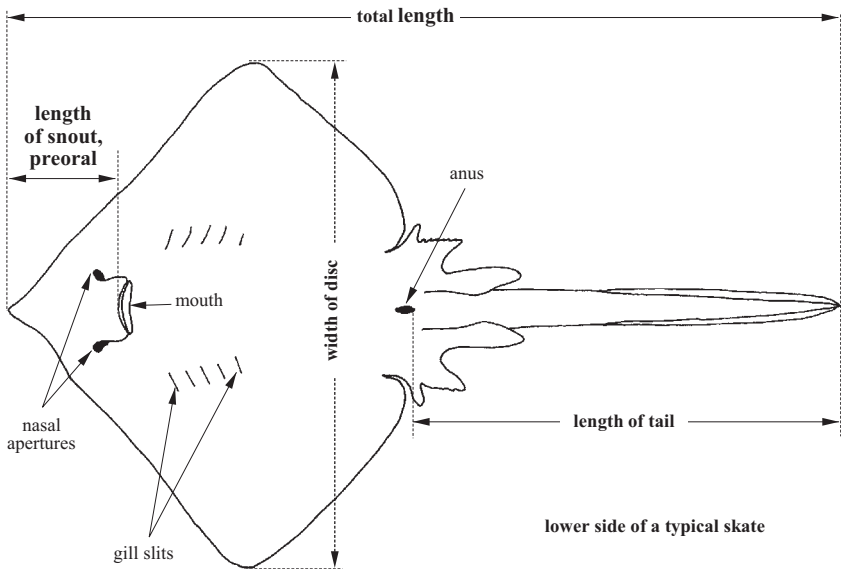


RAYS, SKATES, GUITARFISHES and MANTAS

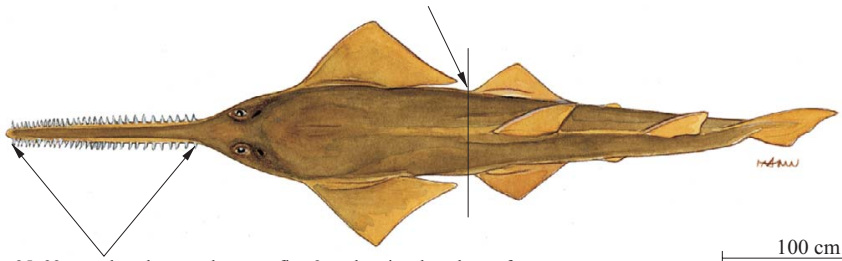




Pristis zijsron

PRISTIDAE

origin of 1st dorsal fin slightly
posterior to origin of pelvic fins



25–32 rostral teeth, space between first 2 teeth-pairs along base of rostrum 2–7 times space between last 2 teeth-pairs at tip of rostrum

FAO names: En – Longcomb sawfish.

Size: Reported to reach 7.3 m.

Conservation status: Critically Endangered.

Pristis zijsron

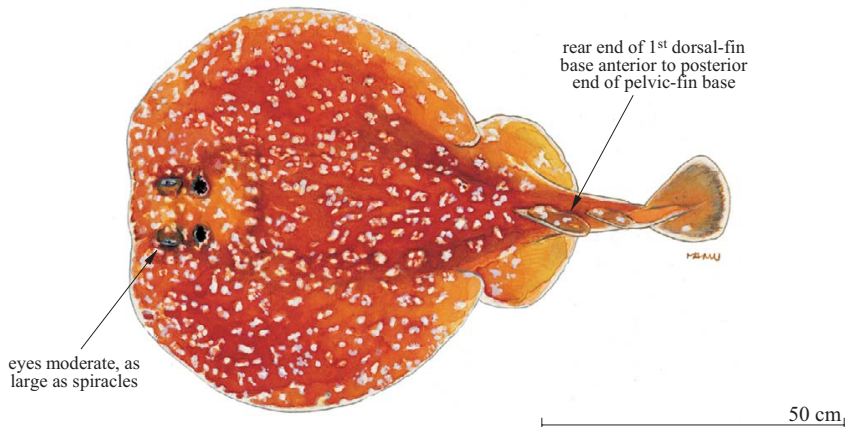
PRISTIDAE

Habitat and biology: In shallow waters, also enters fresh water.

Importance to fisheries: Caught with line gear and bottom trawls. Flesh of good quality. Severely depleted throughout its range. In need of strong conservation measures.

Torpedo panthera

TORPEDINIDAE



FAO names: En – Panther electric ray.

Local names: Raash; Fattarah; Khaddala ramlya; Ruketa kahrbaeia.

رعش؛ فطارة؛ خذالة رملية؛ روكتة كهربائية

Size: To 1 m total length.

Conservation status: Data Deficient.

Torpedo panthera

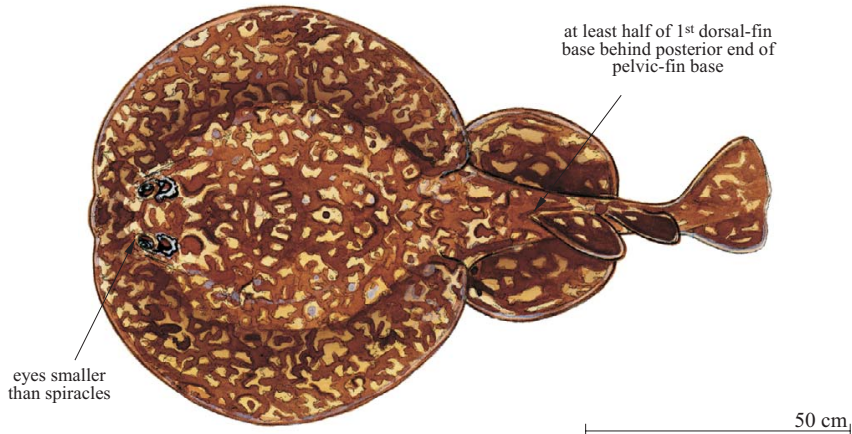
TORPEDINIDAE

Habitat and biology: On mud or sandy bottoms, from shallow water to a depth of 110 m. Can deliver a strong electric shock.

Importance to fisheries: Caught with bottom trawls and hook-and-line.

Torpedo sinuspersici

TORPEDINIDAE



FAO names: En – Marbled electric ray.

Size: To 1.3 m total length, 90 cm disc width.

Conservation status: Data Deficient.

Torpedo sinuspersici

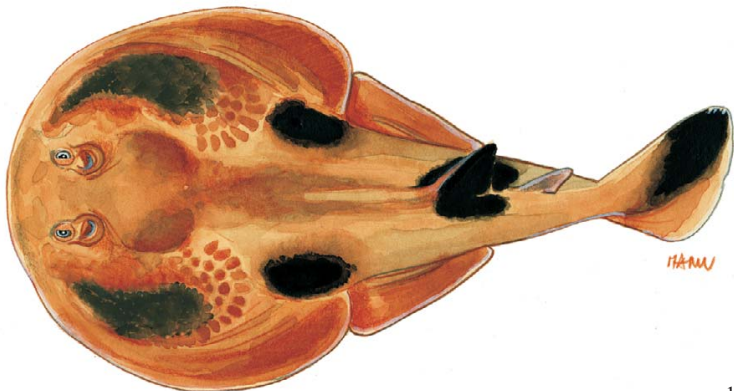
TORPEDINIDAE

Habitat and biology: Inshore waters over sandy bottoms, down to a depth of 200 m. Can deliver a strong electric shock.

Importance to fisheries: Caught with hook-and-line and bottom trawls. Flesh edible.

Heteronarce bentuviai

NARKIDAE



10 cm

FAO names: En – Elat electric ray; Fr – ; Sp – Raya eléctrica de Elat.

Local names:

Size: To 20 cm total length.

Conservation status: –

Heteronarce bentuviai

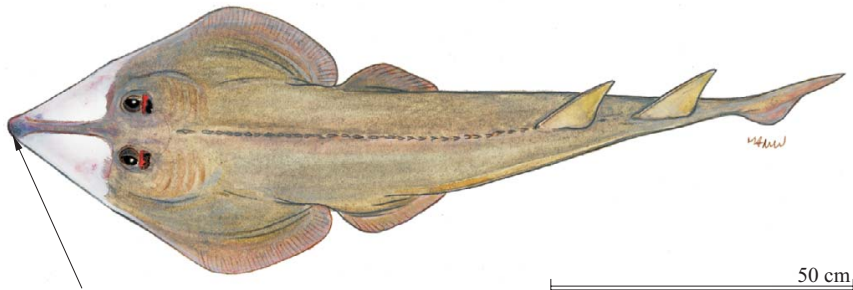
NARKIDAE

Habitat and biology: On sandy and possibly muddy bottoms, from depths of 80 to 200 m. Can deliver a strong electric shock.

Importance to fisheries: Caught as bycatch with gillnets and trawl nets.

Rhinobatos halavi

RHINOBATIDAE



snout moderately long and broad, sides nearly straight

FAO names: En – Halavi guitarfish.

Local names: Halwani khshen; Archetah.

Size: To 150 cm total length.

Conservation status: –

حلواني خشين؛ أرشيطة

Rhinobatos halavi

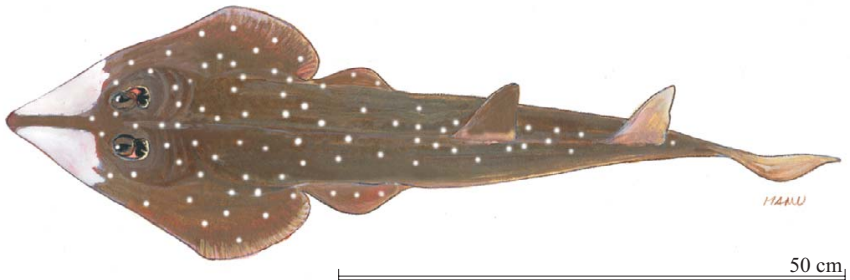
RHINOBATIDAE

Habitat and biology: An inshore species of sandy bottoms. Up to 10 young per litter. Feeds on prawns and other crustaceans.

Importance to fisheries: Caught with gillnets and bottom trawls, utilized for human consumption, fins appreciated in the oriental shark-fin soup market.

Rhinobatos punctifer

RHINOBATIDAE



FAO names: En – Spotted guitarfish.

Local names: Salfooh. سلفوح

Size: To 90 cm total length.

Conservation status: –

Rhinobatos punctifer

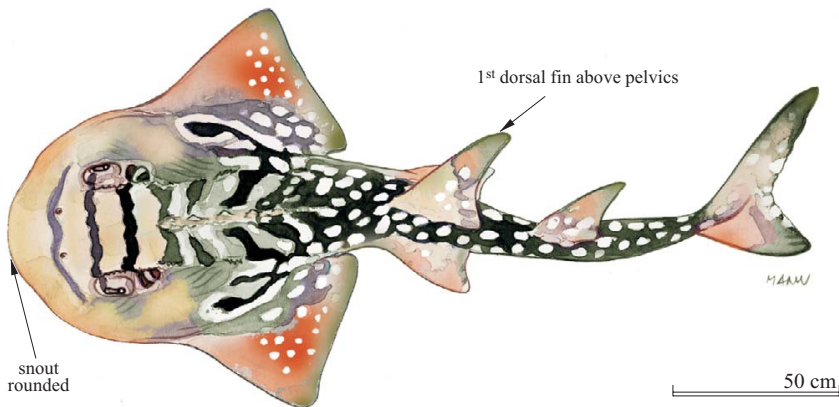
RHINOBATIDAE

Habitat and biology: Presumably a bottom dwelling species like other guitarfishes, but details of its biology unknown.

Importance to fisheries: Caught incidentally with bottom trawls in the northern Red Sea; utilized fresh for human consumption, fins appreciated in the oriental shark-fin soup market.

Rhina ancylostoma

RHYNCHOBATIDAE



FAO names: En - Bowmouth guitarfish; Fr - Angelot.

Local names: Oolo-Oolo; Tuurey Haloul; Al-Bahloul.

Size: To 2.7 m total length.

Conservation status: Vulnerable.

عولو-عولو؛ توري هلول؛ البهلول

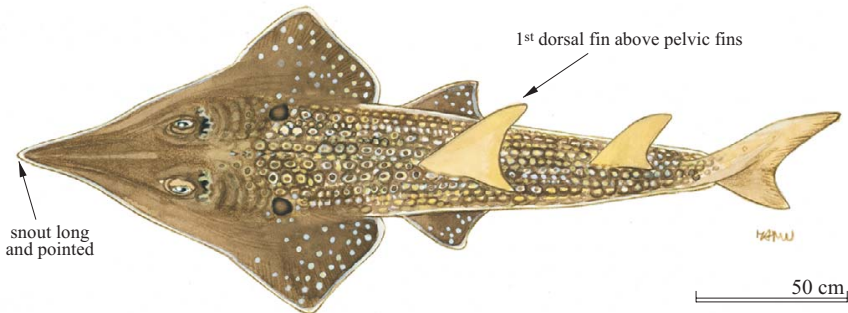
Rhina ancylostoma

RHYNCHOBATIDAE

Habitat and biology: A bottom living species that occurs close inshore and on offshore reefs, from depths of 3 to 90 m. Feeds on crabs and shellfish.

Importance to fisheries: Caught with bottom trawl.

Rhynchobatus djiddensis RHYNCHOBATIDAE



FAO names: **En** - Giant guitarfish; **Fr** - Poisson paille à pois; **Sp** - Pez cuña manchado.

Local names: Oolo-Oolo; Shabeelley; Aurab.

عولو-عولو؛ شبيلي؛ أوراب

Size: To 3 m total length and 230 kg.

Conservation status: Vulnerable.

Rhynchobatus djiddensis

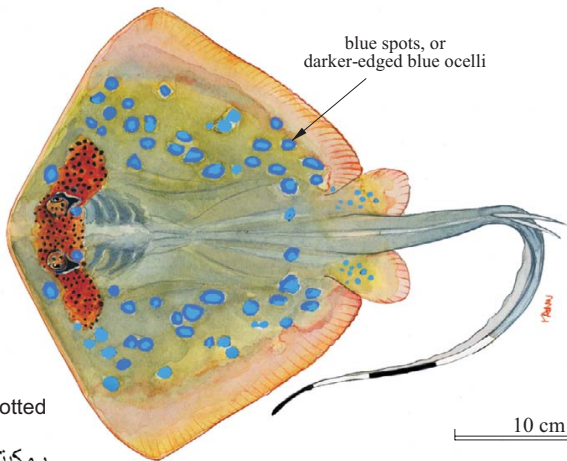
RHYNCHOBATIDAE

Habitat and biology: Occurs in shallow inshore waters, on sandy bottoms, from depths of 2 to 50 m. Feeds on crabs, lobsters, bivalves, small fishes and cephalopods. Ovoviviparous.

Importance to fisheries: Caught with line gear gillnets and bottom trawls. An important species in small-scale fisheries throughout its range. Meat used for human consumption; fins highly appreciated in the oriental shark-fin soup market.

Dasyatis kuhlii

DASYATIDAE



FAO names: En – Bluespotted stingray.

Local name: Rouketah. روكيتة

Size: To 40 cm disc width and about 67 cm total length.

Conservation status: –

Dasyatis kuhlii

DASYATIDAE

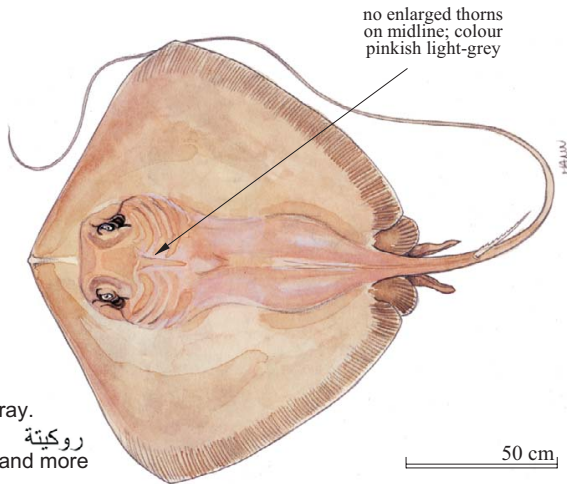
Habitat and biology: In coastal waters, on sandy bottoms often associated with reefs, to a depth of 90 m. Ovoviviparous; feeds on crabs and shrimps.

Importance to fisheries: Caught with line gear and bottom trawls.

Remarks: Its venomous tail spine can inflict painful wounds.

Himantura fai

DASYATIDAE



FAO names: En – Pink whipray.

Local names: Rouketah. روكيتة

Size: To 500 cm total length and more than 150 cm disc width.

Conservation status: –

Himantura fai

DASYATIDAE

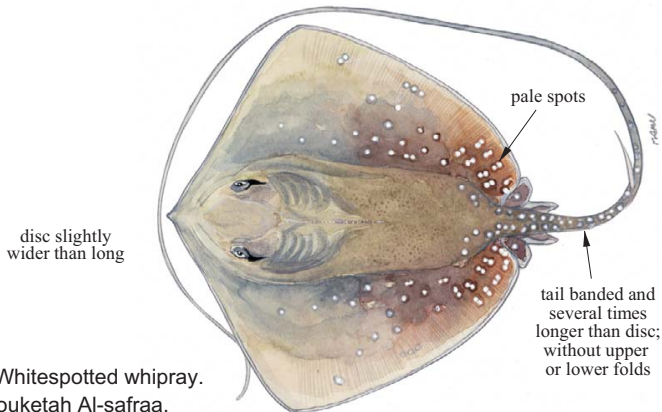
Habitat and biology: Occurs in the inner continental shelf, often in aggregations over soft substrates. Ovoviviparous; otherwise biology poorly known.

Importance to fisheries: Caught as a bycatch with bottom trawl nets, and presumably utilized for human consumption but details unknown.

Remarks: Its venomous tail spine can inflict painful wounds.

Himantura gerrardi

DASYATIDAE



FAO names: En – Whitespotted whipray.

Local names: Al-Rouketah Al-safraa.

روكيته الصفراء

Size: Length to 200 cm; maximum disc width 90 cm or more.

Conservation status: –

Himantura gerrardi

DASYATIDAE

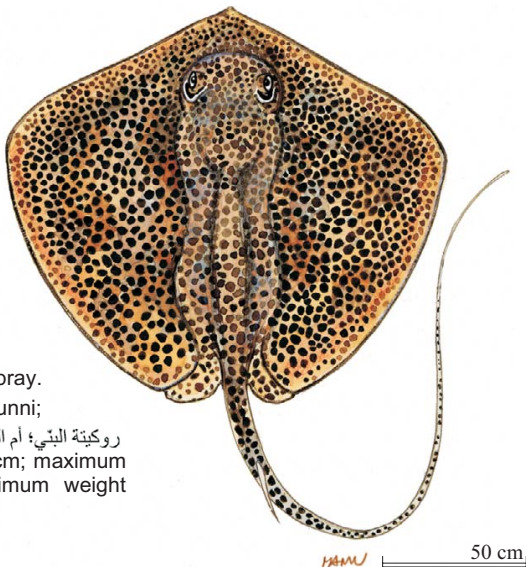
Habitat and biology: Depth distribution limits unknown, but likely to be confined to inner continental shelf on sandy and muddy bottoms; feeds on crabs, shrimps and lobsters.

Importance to fisheries: An important commercial stingray in some areas and the most regularly landed. Meat used for human consumption salt-dried, the skin also used to produce leather.

Remarks: Its venomous tail spine can inflict painful wounds.

Himantura uarnak

DASYATIDAE



FAO names: En – Reticulate whipray.

Local names: Al-Rouketah Al-bounni;
Um Al-Shriet.

روكيتة البني؛ أم الشريط

Size: Maximum total length 450 cm; maximum disc width about 200 cm, maximum weight 120 kg.

Conservation status: –

Himantura uarnak

DASYATIDAE

Habitat and biology: Occurs inshore on soft substrates; often on sandy beaches and on sand bottoms around coral reefs; often intertidal but to depths of at least 50 m. Ovoviviparous, feeds on shrimps, crabs, worms and jellyfishes. May enter fresh waters.

Importance to fisheries: Caught with bottom trawls. Important commercial species through some of its range.

Remarks: Several colour morphs exist, some of which may prove to be distinct species. Its venomous tail spine can inflict painful wounds.

Pastinachus sephen

DASYATIDAE

lower skinfold very prominent, terminating before tip of tail

FAO names: En – Cowtail stingray.

Local names: Saphan; Daffaan; Al-Rukeet Abu-reshah.

سفان؛ دفعان؛ الروكيتة أبو ريشة

Size: Maximum total length 300 cm; maximum disc width 180 cm.

Conservation status: –



Pastinachus sephen

DASYATIDAE

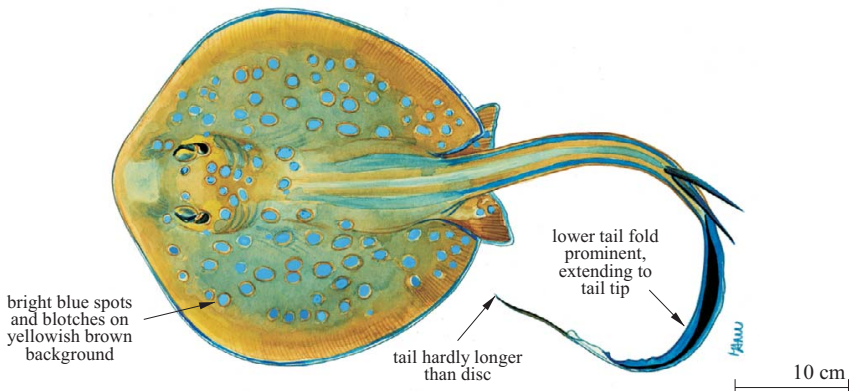
Habitat and biology: Common inshore to a depth of 60 m or more in coral and sedimentary habitats. Enters estuaries and fresh water. Ovoviviparous, feeds on bonyfishes, crabs, worms and shrimps.

Importance to fisheries: Marketed throughout its range in small to moderate quantities. Its skin is highly appreciated for 'shagreen' leather production.

Remarks: Its venomous tail spine can inflict painful wounds.

Taeniura lymma

DASYATIDAE



FAO names: **En** – Bluespotted ribbontail ray; **Fr** – Pastenague queue à ruban; **Sp** – Raya latigo rabo cinta.

Local names: Rukeetet Sheab; Shafane; Um Salem; Um Qurbaj.

روكيتة شياب؛ شفان؛ أم سالم؛ أم قرباج

Size: To 70 cm total length and about 30 cm disc width.

Conservation status: Lower Risk: Near Threatened.

Taeniura lymma

DASYATIDAE

Habitat and biology: In coastal waters over sandy bottoms and especially on coral reefs, to depths of at least 20 m. Feeds mainly on molluscs, worms, shrimps and crabs. Ovoviviparous.

Importance to fisheries: Caught with line gear. Small specimen popular in the aquarium trade.

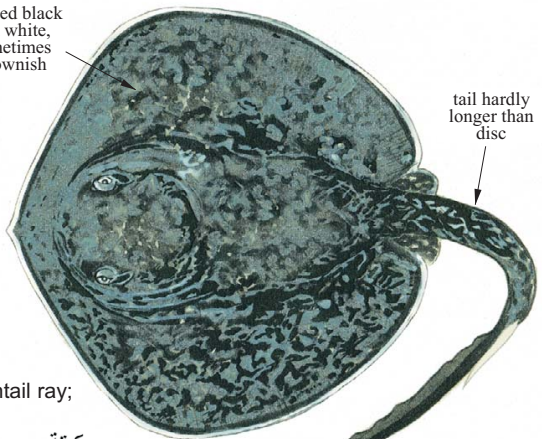
Remarks: Its venomous tail spine can inflict painful wounds.

Taeniura meyeni

DASYATIDAE

mottled black
and white,
sometimes
brownish

tail hardly
longer than
disc



FAO names: En – Blotched fantail ray;
Fr – Pastenague eventail.

Local names: Rouketah.

روكيتة

Size: To 3.3 m total length and 1.8 m disc width up to 150 kg in weight.

Conservation status: Vulnerable.

lower tail fold prominent,
extending to tail tip

50 cm

Taeniura meyeri

DASYATIDAE

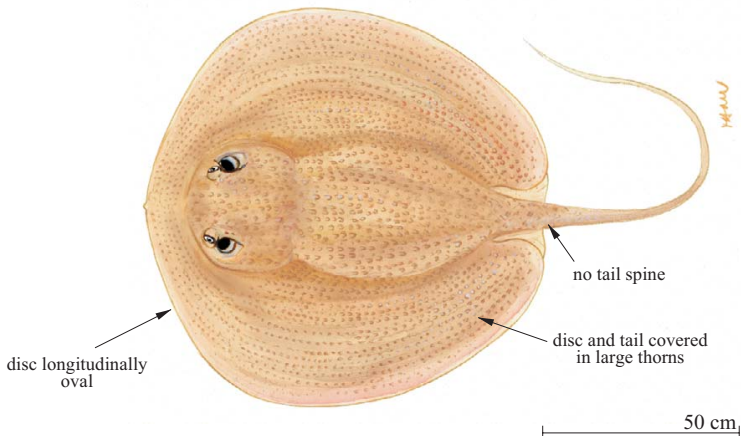
Habitat and biology: Found in coral reefs and offshore on soft bottoms. Most common between depths of 20 and 60 m, but known to occur in a depth of 450 m. Ovoviviparous, feeds on bottom fish, bivalves, crabs and shrimps.

Importance to fisheries: Caught with line gear and bottom trawls. Utilization unknown.

Remarks: Its venomous tail spine can inflict painful wounds.

Urogymnus asperrimus

DASYATIDAE



FAO names: En – Porcupine ray.

Local names: Rouketah. روكيتة

Size: Up to 1 m disc width.

Conservation status: Vulnerable.

Urogymnus asperrimus

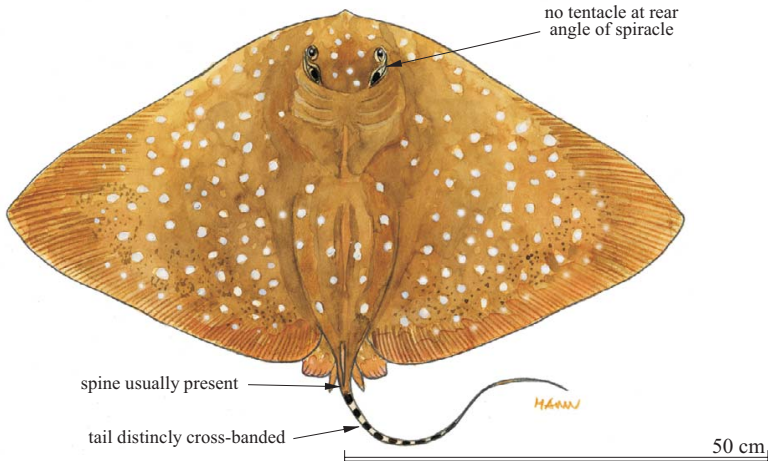
DASYATIDAE

Habitat and biology: Demersal in shallow inshore waters, associated to coral reefs and also found in brackish waters and sandy bottoms, often in caves. Ovoviviparous, feeds on polychaetes, bottom crustaceans and some bony fishes.

Importance to fisheries: Of very little or no importance to fisheries but often caught in trawls and beach seines. Utilized seasonally for its liver in some localities in the Red Sea.

Gymnura poecilura

GYMNURIDAE



FAO names: En – Longtail butterfly ray.

Size: To a total length of 66 cm and width of 80 cm.

Conservation status: Near Threatened.

Gymnura poecilura

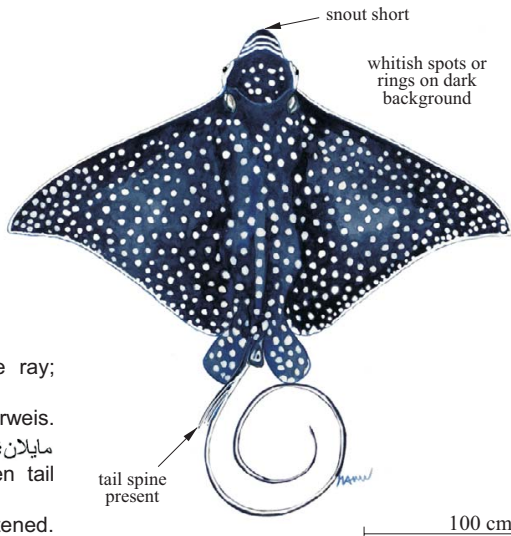
GYMNURIDAE

Habitat and biology: Locally common, found in shallow inshore waters over sandy and muddy bottoms. Ovoviviparous. Feeds mainly on crustaceans and clams.

Importance to fisheries: Caught as bycatch in bottom trawls and sometimes by hook-and-line. Utilized for human consumption in some parts of its range.

Aetobatus narinari

MYLIOBATIDAE



FAO names: En – Spotted eagle ray;
Fr – Aigle de mer leopard.

Local names: Maylan; Abu-rweis.

مايلان؛ أبو رويس

Size: To 8.8 m total length when tail undamaged and 3.3 m disc width.

Conservation status: Near Threatened.

Aetobatus narinari

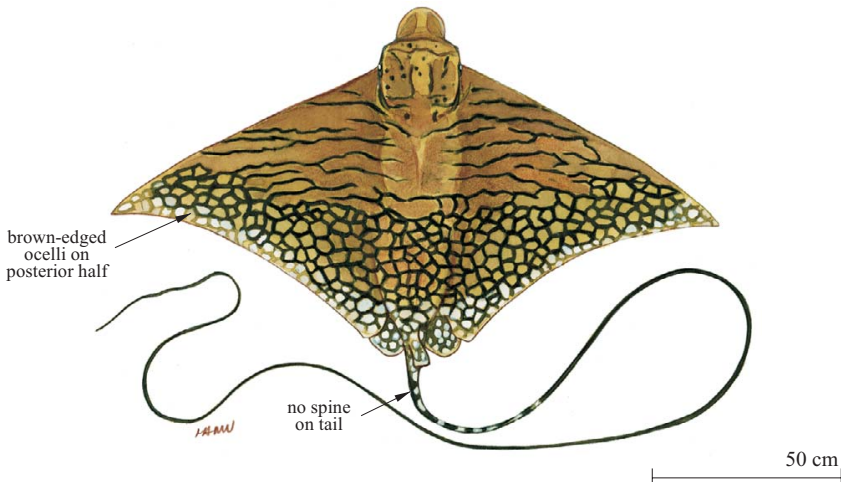
MYLIOBATIDAE

Habitat and biology: Inshore semi-pelagic found around coral reefs, estuaries, off beaches, and enclosed bays; to a depth of 80 m. Can form large schools and can leap out of the water. Ovoviviparous with number of young usually 4. Feeds mainly on bivalves, but also on shrimps, crabs, octopi and worms.

Importance to fisheries: Caught with hook-and-line and harpoons. Flesh edible but seldom utilized.

Aetomylaeus vesperilio

MYLIOBATIDAE



FAO names: En – Ornate eagle ray.

Size: To 160 cm disc width and 385 cm total length.

Conservation status: Endangered.

Aetomylaeus vespertilio

MYLIOBATIDAE

Habitat and biology: Occurs inshore and offshore associated with muddy bays and coral reefs; to a depth of 110 m. Ovoviviparous; biology poorly known.

Importance to fisheries: Caught with gillnets and probably other gear. Utilized for human consumption, but details lacking.

Rhinoptera javanica

RHINOPTERIDAE

FAO names: En – Javanese cownose ray;

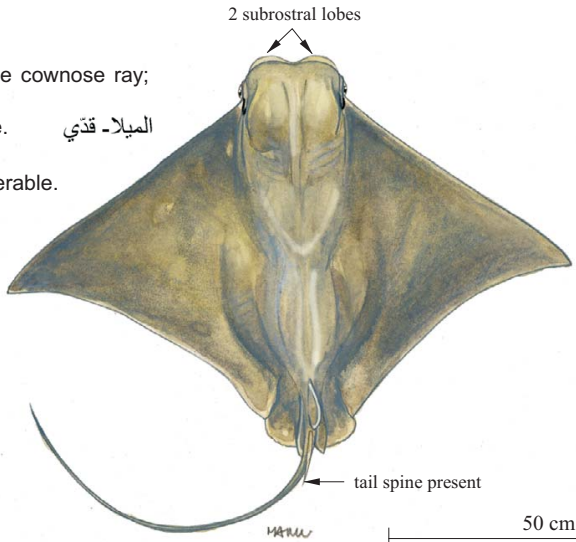
Fr – Mourine javanaise.

Local names: Mayla-Cadde.

الميلا - قدي

Size: To 1.5 m disc width.

Conservation status: Vulnerable.



Rhinoptera javanica

RHINOPTERIDAE

Habitat and biology: In coastal waters. Gregarious, often occurring in large numbers. Ovoviviparous. Feeds mainly on clams, oysters and crustaceans.

Importance to fisheries: Caught in gillnets, hook-and-line, and beach seines; edible but seldom utilized. Fished by sport fishers; kept in public aquaria.

Manta birostris

MOBULIDAE



FAO names: En – Giant manta; Fr – Mante geante; Sp – Manta voladora.

Local names: Rukeetet Al-Manta. روكيتة المنطة

Size: Disc width 6.70 m, possibly up to 9 m; weight up to 3 000 kg.

Conservation status: Near Threatened.

Manta birostris

MOBULIDAE

Habitat and biology: A common inshore and offshore inhabitant of all temperate and tropical seas, pelagic, found in shallow muddy bays and the intertidal as well as river mouths and off coral reefs and at least to 120 m depth. Occurs individually, or in groups probably highly migratory. Ovoviviparous with up to two young per litter; feeds on zooplankton and small to moderate-sized fishes.

Importance to fisheries: Caught with harpoons. Utilized for human consumption in some parts of its range. Easy to be approached by divers and willing to investigate them. A preferred species for eco-touristic diving operations.

Mobula japonica

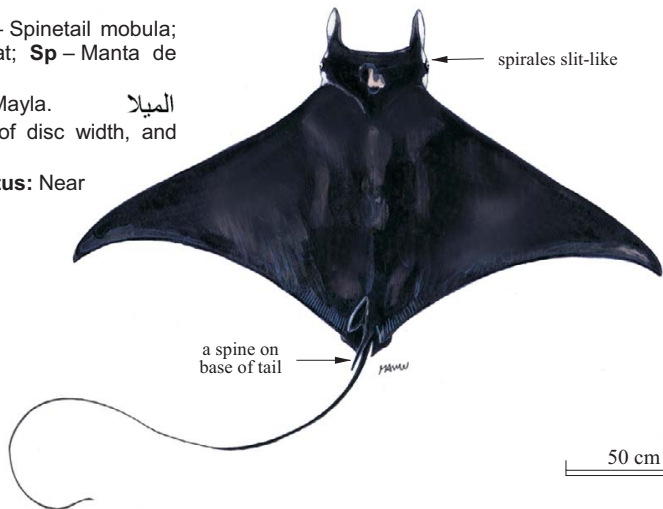
MOBULIDAE

FAO names: **En** – Spinetail mobula;
Fr – Mante aiguillat; **Sp** – Manta de
aguijón.

Local names: Al-Mayla. الميلا

Size: To 310 cm of disc width, and
probably larger.

Conservation status: Near
Threatened.



Mobula japonica

MOBULIDAE

Habitat and biology: Occurs singly or in groups inshore, offshore and probably in oceanic waters in warm-temperate and tropical seas. Ovoviviparous with only one young per litter; birth size about 85 cm; feeds on euphausiids, copepods and crustacean larvae.

Importance to fisheries: Poorly known, but likely to be mostly a bycatch species. Caught incidentally with floating longlines in the Gulf of Aden and presumably utilized there for human consumption.

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This set of cards on Sharks and Rays of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden is aiming at providing a quick reference and identification tool for the elasmobranchs of the area. The pocket format and the plastic support make it an easy-to-carry tool that can be used in wet environments and underwater. It is aiming at serving the needs of those involved in collecting data on sharks and rays and more generally agencies and the public having an interest in these species. The use of colour painting instead of photographs was retained as it gives better possibilities to show all the characteristic features on a single illustrations and also provides a reliable representation of the colours.

TC/D/A1502E/1/12.07/2000

