

A new species of whiptail stingray of the genus *Dasyatis* Rafinesque, 1810 from the Southwestern Atlantic Ocean (Chondrichthyes: Myliobatiformes: Dasyatidae)

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Abstract

The new species is compared both with other *Dasyatis* species of the southwestern Atlantic and with similarly shaped species of *Dasyatis* from other areas of the world. The holotype was collected in Marajó Bay; near Colares Island, district of Colares, Belém, Pará State, Brazil. It differs from known *Dasyatis* species by the combination of the following characters: a diamond-shaped (rhomboid) disc; an elongate snout (preorbital distance ranges from 35.7 to 37.7 % in disc width); a dark, well defined band or dark blotches outlining the lower lips; a row of small tubercles along midline of disc from shoulder region to base of tail, presenting a widespread and random arrangement; posterior margins of pectoral fins uniformly rounded; triangular-shaped pelvic fins with posterior margin almost straight or slightly sinuous and tips exceeding the limits of the posterior margin of disc; dorsal caudal keel absent in the holotype, but vestigial in both paratypes.

Key words: *Dasyatis colarensis*, new species, Dasyatidae, North of Brazil

Introduction

The genus *Dasyatis* Rafinesque, 1810 comprises 37 species and occurs worldwide (Compagno, 1999a,b and Gomes *et al.* 2000). Six species of *Dasyatis* have been reported for the southwestern Atlantic (in Brazilian waters): the southern stingray, *D. americana* Hildebrand & Schroeder, 1928; the roughtail stingray, *D. centroura* (Mitchill, 1815); the wingfin stingray, *D. geijskesi* Boeseman, 1948; the longnose stingray *D. guttata* (Bloch &