

***Pastinachus solocirostris* sp. nov., a new species of Stingray (Elasmobranchii: Myliobatiformes) from the Indo–Malay Archipelago**

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Abstract

A new stingray, *Pastinachus solocirostris* sp. nov., is described from material collected from Malaysian Borneo and Indonesia. It differs from the only other recognised member of the genus, *P. sephen*, in having a smaller adult size, more elongate disc and head, longer and more acute snout covered to its apex with enlarged denticles, more posteriorly located sting, longer and more slender ventral cutaneous fold, enlarged pearl-shaped nuchal thorns, and fewer pectoral-fin radials and vertebrae. It appears to occur primarily in estuaries and turbid coastal marine habitats off Borneo and Sumatra.

Key words: *Pastinachus*, stingray, Dasyatidae, Malaysia, Indonesia, Borneo, Indo–Malay Archipelago

Introduction

Pastinachus is generally considered to be a monotypic genus with a widespread species, *P. sephen* (Forsskål, 1775), occurring across the Indo–Pacific from the Red Sea to Australia, including Melanesia, Micronesia, and the China Seas (Last & Compagno, 1999). Five nominal species are presumed to be junior synonyms: *Taeniura atra* Macleay, 1883 (Last and Stevens, 1994), *Raia fluviatilis* Hamilton, 1822 (Roberts, 1998), *Trigon forskalii* Rüppell, 1829 (Nishida and Nakaya, 1990), *Dasybatus gruvelli* Chabanaud, 1923 (Last and Compagno, 1999), and *Raia sancur* Hamilton, 1822 (Talwar and Jhingran, 1991). Recent research on Indo–West Pacific dasyatids has shown that more than one species of *Pastinachus* exists in the region and some of these names may need to be resurrected. Most of these unidentified taxa are very similar morphologically to *P. sephen*. In this