

**Himantura hortlei n. sp., a new species of whipray (Myliobatiformes :  
Dasyatidae) from Irian Jaya, Indonesia**

**Abstract**

The Indo-Malay region, which is represented by at least 17 whiprays of the genus *Himantura*, has the richest dasyatid fauna of any region. *Himantura hortlei* n. sp. is described based on specimens from coastal marine and estuarine habitats in the Arafura Sea off Irian Jaya ( southwestern New Guinea). The mature male holotype was caught in the estuary of the Minajerwi River. It is a moderately large ray that reaches at least 0.7 m disc width and 2.4 m total length. This species can be distinguished from most of its congeners by the combination of a relatively narrow, heart-shaped disc with a very long angular snout, very small eyes, a non-protrusible mouth, no deep circumoral grooves, larger and more slowly developing denticles, a less well-developed lateral prepelvic process, a yellowish ventral surface when fresh, denticles present along the upper anterior snout margin, and a denticle band ending well forward of the eyes in adults.