

**Himantura lobistoma, a new whipray (Rajiformes : Dasyatidae) from Borneo,
with comments on the status of Dasyatis microphthalmus**

Abstract

A new long-snouted whipray, *Himantura lobistoma*, is described on the basis of seven specimens collected from the southeastern sector of the South China Sea, off western Borneo. It belongs to a subgroup of *Himantura* species provisionally defined herein as the "uarnacoides" complex that includes five nominal species: *H. chaophraya*, *H. granulata*, *H. hortlei*, *H. pastinacoides*, and *H. uarnacoides*. These whiprays all have a similar lateral disc shape (i.e., pectoral-fin apices broadly rounded rather than narrowly rounded or angular), a plain colouration (i.e., usually uniform light to dark brown dorsally, and pale or whitish ventrally with or without a dark margin), a long and slender whiplike tail, and platelike denticles in a broad dorsal band in adults. *Himantura lobistoma* can be distinguished from the superficially similar *H. hortlei* by its highly protrusible mouth and pelvic girdle with prominent lateral prepelvic processes. It differs from other members of the "uarnacoides" complex by a combination of internal and external morphological characteristics (e.g., having an extremely elongate snout and very small eyes). Another long-snouted stingray from the region, *Dasyatis microphthalmus* Chen, inadequately described and known only from the lost holotype, is considered a *nomen dubium*. It had been assigned to *Himantura* based on the absence of an obvious ventral cutaneous tailfold but may be conspecific with *D. acutirostra*.