

Order MYLIOBATIFORMES

Butterfly Rays

Family GYMNURIDAE

Fowler 1934



Gymnura japonica. From: Temminck, C. J. and H. Schlegel. 1850. Pisces. In: Fauna Japonica, sive descriptio animalium quae in itinere per Japoniam suscepto annis 1823-30 collegit, notis observationibus et adumbrationibus illustravit P. F. de Siebold. Last part: 270–324.

Gymnura
van Hasselt 1823

gymnós (Gr. γυμνός) bare or naked; *ourá* (Gr. οὐρά), tail, allusion not explained, possibly referring to lack of dorsal fin and serrated spines on tail of *G. micrura*

***Gymnura altavela* (Linnaeus 1758)** Italian vernacular for this ray (*alta*, high; *vela*, sail) as reported by Willughby (1686, *De historia piscium*), allusion not explained, perhaps referring to broad sail-like body formed by fused pectoral fins

***Gymnura australis* (Ramsay & Ogilby 1886)** Latin for southern, described as an Australian form of *G. altavela*

***Gymnura crebripunctata* (Peters 1869)** *creber* (L.), thick, numerous or pressed together; *punctata* (L.), spotted, referring to closely arranged black dots on dorsal surface and small yellow spots on front edge of disc

***Gymnura hirundo* (Lowe 1843)** Latin for swallow, referring to bird-like wingspan formed by its fused pectoral fins

***Gymnura japonica* (Temminck & Schlegel 1850)** *-ica* (L.), belonging to: Japan (described from Nagasaki Bay)

***Gymnura lessae* Yokota & Carvalho 2017** in honor of Rosângela Lessa, a “valued mentor and friend” of the first author, and a “highly esteemed Brazilian researcher who has been struggling valiantly for the conservation of sharks and rays in Brazil, and has contributed significantly to the knowledge of this group”

***Gymnura marmorata* (Cooper 1864)** Latin for marbled, referring to finely mottled color pattern, with darker mottles forming reticulations around pale roundish spots

***Gymnura micrura* (Bloch & Schneider 1801)** small-tailed, from *mikrós* (Gr. μικρός), small, and *ourá* (Gr. οὐρά), tail, referring to its slender, short tail (about ¼ disc width)

***Gymnura natalensis* (Gilchrist & Thompson 1911)** *-ensis*, Latin suffix denoting place: Cape Natal, South Africa, type locality

***Gymnura poecilura* (Shaw 1804)** *poecilio-*, from *poikilos* (Gr. ποικίλος), varicolored; *ourá* (Gr. οὐρά), tail (treated here as an adjective, tailed), referring to black and white circles or rings on tail

***Gymnura sereti* Yokota & Carvalho 2017** in honor of French ichthyologist Bernard Séret (b. 1949), Muséum national d’Histoire naturelle (MNHN, Paris), for his “important contributions” to the systematics of elasmobranchs and to our knowledge of West African fishes; he has “contributed substantially to the collections of the MNHN, including thousands of specimens from West Africa”

***Gymnura tentaculata* (Valenciennes 1841)** *-atus* (L.), provided with: *tentacule* (L.), feeler, i.e., small tentacle, referring to a tentacle behind each spiracle (authorship often attributed to Müller & Henle, who published Valenciennes’ description)

***Gymnura zonurus* (Bleeker 1852)** *zona* (L.), belt or girdle; *urus*, Latinized from *ourá* (Gr. οὐρά), tail, referring to 8–10 white rings on tail behind dorsal (often incorrectly treated as an adjective, *zonura*)