

Order MYLIOBATIFORMES

Eagle Rays

Family MYLIOBATIDAE

Bonaparte 1835



"Aquila marinae species," illustration upon which description of *Raja* (now *Aetomylaeus*) *nichofii* is based. From: Willughby, F. 1686. De historia piscium libri quatuor, jussu & sumptibus Societatis Regiae Londinensis editi. Totum opus recognovit, coaptavit, supplevit, librum etiam primum & secundum integros adjecit Johannes Raius e Societate Regia. Theatro Sheldoniano, Oxonii (Oxford). Vol. 1: 1–343 + 1–30 + 12 unnumbered pp., 104 pls.

Aetomylaeus

Garman 1908

-eus (L. suffix), pertaining to: a combination of *Aetobatus* (Aetobatidae) and *Myliobatis*, referring to similarity of body and fins between the two genera

***Aetomylaeus asperrimus* (Waite 1909)** Latin for very rough, referring to upper surface of head and body covered with minute, usually stellate prickles

***Aetomylaeus bovinus* (Geoffroy St. Hilaire 1817)** Latin for bovine (pertaining to oxen or cows), allusion not explained, perhaps referring to its large, prominent head

***Aetomylaeus caeruleofasciatus* White, Last & Baje 2015** *caeruleus* (L.), dark blue (but used here to mean blue in general); *fasciatus* (L.), banded, referring to 7–8 transverse pale-blue bands on dorsal surface (a trait it shares with its closest congener, *A. nichofii*)

***Aetomylaeus maculatus* (Gray 1834)** Latin for spotted, referring to dark-edged, whitish, roundish spots on dorsal surface

***Aetomylaeus milvus* (Valenciennes 1841)** Latin for kite (bird) or hawk, referring to bird-like wingspan formed by fused pectoral fins [authorship often attributed to Müller & Henle, who published Valenciennes' description]

***Aetomylaeus nichofii* (Bloch & Schneider 1801)** in honor of Johan Nieuhof (1618–1672), Dutch East India Company, whose illustration of this ray was copied by Francis Willughby in 1686, from which Bloch & Schneider's description was based [authors corrected spelling to *nichofi* in corrigenda but original spelling is retained due to prevailing usage]

***Aetomylaeus vespertilio* (Bleeker 1852)** Latin for bat, possibly referring to bat-like wingspan formed by fused pectoral fins

***Aetomylaeus wafickii* Jabado, Ebert & Al Dhaheri 2022** in honor of Wafic Jabado, father of the first author, for his support for her work and the occasion of his 73rd birthday

Myliobatis

Cuvier 1816

mylio, from *mýlē* (Gr. μύλη), a mill, referring to broad, flat teeth of *M. aquila*, used to crush clam shells and crustaceans; *batis* (Gr. βατίς), a flat fish, usually applied to a skate or ray

***Myliobatis aquila* (Linnaeus 1758)** Latin for eagle, referring to broad eagle-like wingspan formed by its fused pectoral fins

***Myliobatis californica* Gill 1865** -ica (L.), belonging to: California (Tomales Bay), type locality

***Myliobatis chilensis* Philippi 1892** -ensis, Latin suffix denoting place: Chile (Quinteros), type locality

***Myliobatis freminvillei* Lesueur 1824** patronym not identified, probably in honor of French naturalist Chrétien Paulin de Fréminville (1787–1848)

***Myliobatis goodei* Garman 1885** in honor of American ichthyologist George Brown Goode (1851–1896), Assistant Secretary, Smithsonian Institution (Washington, D.C., USA)

***Myliobatis hamlyni* Ogilby 1911** in honor of English-born Australian entomologist Ronald Hamlyn-Harris (1874–1953), Director of the Queensland Museum



Ventral views of head of *Myliobatis ridens*, showing “laughing” or “smiling” countenance for which it is named. From: Ruocco, N. L., L. O. Lucifora, J. M. Díaz de Astarloa, E. Mabrugaña and S. M. Delpiani. 2012. Morphology and DNA barcoding reveal a new species of eagle ray from the southwestern Atlantic: *Myliobatis ridens* sp. nov. (Chondrichthyes: Myliobatiformes: Myliobatidae). *Zoological Studies* 51 (6): 862–873.

***Myliobatis longirostris* Applegate & Fitch 1964** *longus* (L.), long; *rostris*, Neo-Latin scientific adjective of *rostrum* (L.), snout, referring to its long, pointed snout, about 12% width of disc compared with 8% in *M. californica*

***Myliobatis peruvianus* Garman 1913** *-anus* (L.), belonging to: Callao, Peru, type locality

***Myliobatis ridens* Ruocco, Lucifora, Díaz de Astarloa, Mabrugaña & Delpiani 2012** Latin for laughing or smiling, referring to “peculiar countenance” caused by corners and width of mouth, resembling a smile

***Myliobatis tenuicaudatus* Hector 1877** *tenuis* (L.), thin or slender; *caudatus* (L.), tailed, referring to its “very slender” tail

***Myliobatis tobijei* Bleeker 1854** from *tobi-ei*, Japanese name for eagle rays, which translates to black kite (a bird), referring to bird-like wing-span formed by its fused pectoral fins