

NOTES ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF SOME AUSTRALIAN SHARKS AND RAYS, WITH A DESCRIPTION OF *RHINOBATUS BOUGAINVILLEI*, Müll. and Henle.

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Having had occasion lately to overlook the collection of Sharks and Rays in the Australian Museum, I have thought that the following notes may prove of interest to ichthyologists, especially to those who have made a study of our palæichthyan forms. It will be seen, that in two instances, [those of *Scyllium maculatum* and *Rhinobatus granulatus*] I differ in my identification from those who have preceded me in this branch, and from the examination of numerous specimens, both in the Australian Museum and in that of the Hon. Wm. Macleay, I am convinced that neither of these species occur so far south as the New South Wales coast, where their place is taken by my recently described *Scyllium anale*, and by Müller and Henle's *Rhinobatus bougainvillei*, of which latter the habitat was previously unknown. I have also the pleasure in this paper of adding two new genera to the Australian fauna, viz., *Rhynchobatus djeddensis*, Forsk., which appears to be not uncommon, but has hitherto been mixed up with *Rhinobatus*; and *Pteroplatea* of which I came across a fine specimen caught near Cape Hawke, by Mr. J. Brown, and which is as yet undescribed. The addition of *Tæniura lymma* is also worthy of notice, though its previous discovery, on the south coast of New Guinea rendered its Australian record a mere matter of time; our specimen is from Cape York, and was collected by Mr. Walter Powell.

CARCHARIAS CRENIDENS. Klunz.

Some months ago I received from Mr. Henry Smithurst a small specimen of this shark which had been taken by hook at the Burnett River Heads; it is barely 12 inches long, yet shows no sign of the umbilical sac, and I conclude therefore that this species never attains a large size. I doubt the possibility of its specific separation from *C. acutus*, Rüpp., with which I had previously identified the small example in question.

SCYLLIUM ANALE. Ogilby.

This species seems to be common in the neighbourhood of Port Jackson, but has been confounded with *S. maculatum*, Bl., from which it may at once be distinguished by the separation of the nasal valves. I have examined about a score of examples up to this time, but have not found a single specimen of Bloch's species, which must, I think, be excluded from the New South Wales list.

CHILOSCYLLIUM OCELLATUM, (Gmel).

The Australian Museum possesses a specimen of this fish caught in Port Jackson; it must, therefore, be included in future in the Fauna of this colony.

RHINOBATUS BOUGAINVILLEI. M. & H.

Preoral space $1\frac{7}{8}$ in the distance, between the tip of the snout and the vent; snout moderately produced; interorbital space concave, contained five times in the length of snout. Anterior nasal valve continued inwards by a short fold. Rostral ridges narrow,

closely approximating in their anterior two-thirds. Mouth arched; teeth small, in about 90/80 rows; lower jaw with a central depression, on each side of which the teeth are much longer than elsewhere. A row of short depressed spines along the median line of the back, continued between the dorsals; a few short blunt spines on the shoulders, and at the upper anterior and posterior angles of the orbits, and a pair on the tip of the snout above. Skin of the lower surface of the rostrum with minute spines pointing backwards; a similar patch on the anterior angles of the pectorals above and below; remainder of the cuticle smooth.

Colors. Yellowish-brown above; dirty-white below.

This is the common *Rhinobatus* of the New South Wales coast, and is found at least as far north as Cape York, where its range overlaps that of *R. granulatus*, as is proved by a specimen of the latter being contained in the same bottle with several of the former in the Macleay Museum, and all labelled from the above-mentioned locality.

RHYNCHOBATUS DJEDDENSIS. (Forsk).

This fine species seems to be moderately common in the neighbourhood of Port Jackson, but though differing so plainly from *Rhinobatus*, has nevertheless been somehow confounded with the common shovel-nosed Ray, described above. The Australian Museum possesses a stuffed specimen from the harbour, which measures fully seven feet long.

TÆNIURA LYMMA. (Forsk).

As mentioned previously there is in the Museum an authenticated example from Cape York.

PTEROPLATEA AUSTRALIS.

Thanks to Mr. J. Brown, of Cape Hawke, I am enabled to include in this paper a record of this fine new species, which will be described next meeting by Mr. Ramsay and myself. We propose to name it *Pteroplatea australis*.

AETOBATIS NARINARI. (Euph).

Must in future be included in the New South Wales fauna, two specimens having been sent to the Museum from Cape Hawke along with the preceding species.



Ogilby, J. Douglas. 1885. "Notes on the distribution of some Australian sharks and rays, with a description of *Rhinobatus bougainvillei*, Müller and Henle." *Proceedings of the Linnean Society of New South Wales* 10, 463–466.

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