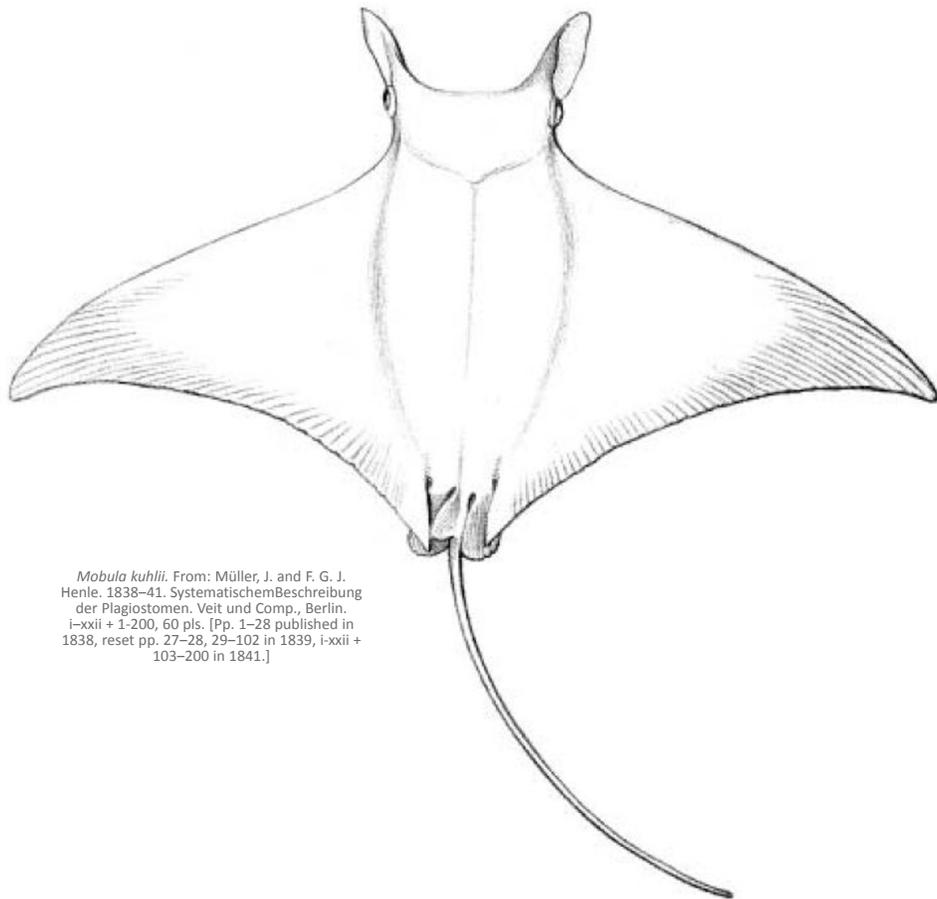


Order MYLIOBATIFORMES

Devil Rays¹

Family MOBULIDAE

Gill 1893



Mobula kuhlii. From: Müller, J. and F. G. J. Henle. 1838–41. Systematischem Beschreibung der Plagiostomen. Veit und Comp., Berlin. i–xxii + 1–200, 60 pls. [Pp. 1–28 published in 1838, reset pp. 27–28, 29–102 in 1839, i–xxii + 103–200 in 1841.]

Mobula

Rafinesque 1810

probably based on *Raja mobular*, which Rafinesque unnecessarily replaced with *Mobula auriculata* [for etymology, see *Mobula mobular*]

***Mobula alfredi* (Kreff 1868)**² in honor of Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh (1844–1900), who was visiting Sydney at the time this “royal fish” was caught and posed for photographs with it

***Mobula birostris* (Walbaum 1792)** *bi-*, from *bis* (L.), two; *rostris*, Neo-Latin scientific adjective of *rostrum* (L.), snout, referring to its two horn-like flaps (i.e., cephalic fins)

***Mobula eregoodoo* (Cantor 1849)** from *Eregoodoo Tenkee*, vernacular name used near Coromandel (southeast India) for mobulid rays

***Mobula hypostoma* (Bancroft 1831)** *hypó* (Gr. ὑπό), less than, under or beneath; *stóma* (Gr. στόμα), mouth, referring to its ventral mouth (a diagnostic feature of *Mobula*)

¹ The vernacular name Devil Ray may derive from *Raja diabolus* Shaw 1804, now a junior synonym of *Mobula mobular*. Shaw did not explain the meaning of “*diabolus*” (Latin for demon or evil spirit), but it likely alludes to folkloric tales of the ray devouring divers, either by claspings them with their hornlike flaps (cephalic fins) or enveloping them with their pectoral fins.

² Name was anonymously published in a newspaper article. Australian ichthyologist Gilbert Whitley attributed authorship to Johann Ludwig Gerard Krefft (1830–1881), who was curator of the Australian Museum at the time. Per ICZN 51.2, authorship should be given as “(Anonymous [Kreff] 1868)” but no one is following that convention in the current literature.

***Mobula kuhlii* (Valenciennes 1841)** in honor of German zoologist Heinrich Kuhl (1797–1821), who died while collecting fauna and flora in Java; his collections, drawings and manuscripts provided material for Valenciennes and other naturalists [authorship often attributed to Müller & Henle, who published Valenciennes’ description]

***Mobula mobular* (Bonnaterre 1788)** of uncertain origin but three explanations have been proffered: 1) from *mobilis* (L.), mobile, referring to its migratory habits; 2) since Rafinesque in proposing *Mobula* mentioned an Italian vernacular, *Tavila cornuta* (“horned table”), perhaps an allusion to what some Romance languages refer to as “moveables” or nonfixed furnishings, therefore comparing the ray to a large piece of furniture (e.g., table) that moves; 3) a name locally used in the Azores Islands

***Mobula munkiana* Notarbartolo-di-Sciara 1987 -ana** (L.), belonging to: Walter H. Munk (1917–2019), Scripps Institution of Oceanography, “oceanographer extraordinary [sic], and friend”

***Mobula tarapacana* (Philippi 1892) -ana** (L.), belonging to: 12 miles west of Iquique, Tarapacá Province, Chile, type locality

***Mobula thurstoni* (Lloyd 1908)** in honor of Edgar Thurston (1855–1935), superintendent of the Government Museum, Madras, India, who provided Lloyd the opportunity to examine specimens from the museum’s collection