



Accession Number: - ZOO108

Scientific Name: *Dasyatis pastinaca*

Family: Dasyatidae

Common Name: Whip-tailed ray

Physical Characteristics:

They have a flattened, disc-like body with pectoral fins that are fused to the head, giving them a broad, kite-like shape. Sizes can vary significantly by species, ranging from small rays measuring approximately 30 centimetres to large rays exceeding 2 meters in disc width. They have a long, whip-like tail, often equipped with one or more venomous spines. The tail is used for defence. The eyes are positioned on the top of the head, while the mouth, nostrils, and gill slits are located on the underside. Their mouths contain small, plate-like teeth suitable for crushing prey. Stingrays primarily feed on benthic organisms, including molluscs, crustaceans, and small fish.

Geographical Distribution:

They are commonly found in coastal waters, including estuaries and bays, and near coral reefs, across the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans. Specific species can be found in regions such as the Caribbean, the Gulf of Mexico, the Red Sea, the Mediterranean Sea, and along the coasts of Africa, Asia, Australia, and the Americas.

Economic Importance:

They are significant in fisheries, the aquarium trade, ecotourism, and scientific research. Conservation efforts are essential to ensure their sustainability and protect their ecological roles.



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