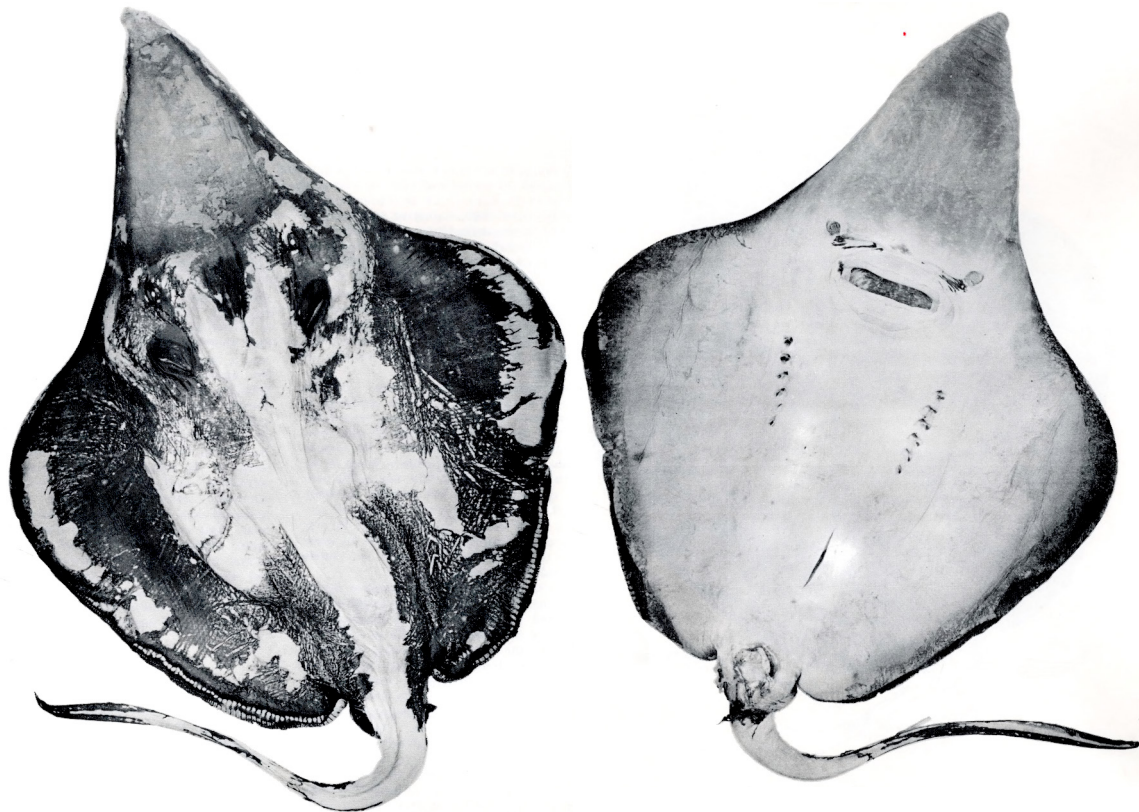


Order MYLIOBATIFORMES

Sixgill Stingray

Family **HEXATRYGONIDAE**

Heemstra & Smith 1980



Hexatrygon bickelli, holotype, female, 103 cm TL, dorsal (left) and ventral (right) views. From: Heemstra, P. C. and M. M. Smith. 1980. Hexatrygonidae, a new family of stingrays (Myliobatiformes: Batoidea) from South Africa, with comments on the classification of batoid fishes. Ichthyological Bulletin of the J. L. B. Smith Institute of Ichthyology No. 43: 1–17.

Hexatrygon

Heemstra & Smith 1980

hexa-, from *héx* (Gr. ἕξ), six, referring to its six gills (all other rays have five); *trygôn* (Gr. τρυγών), stingray, originating from *ptéryx* (Gr. πτέρυξ), wing¹, referring to the wing-like resemblance (and flying-like movement) of their pectoral fins

Hexatrygon bickelli Heemstra & Smith 1980 in honor of Dave Bickell, a former angling correspondent for the *Eastern Province Herald* (Port Elizabeth, South Africa), who discovered holotype washed up on a beach

¹ Le Feuvre, C. 2011. Gr. τρυγών '1. turtledove; 2. stingray (fish)': one word or two words? *Studia Etymologica Cracoviensia* 16 (1): 23–31. Some references say *trygôn* means turtle dove. Le Feuvre presents evidence that *trygôn* was originally two distinct words, meaning both stingray and turtle dove, that merged into one through the vicissitudes of phonological change; the semantic link between the two animals is accidental.