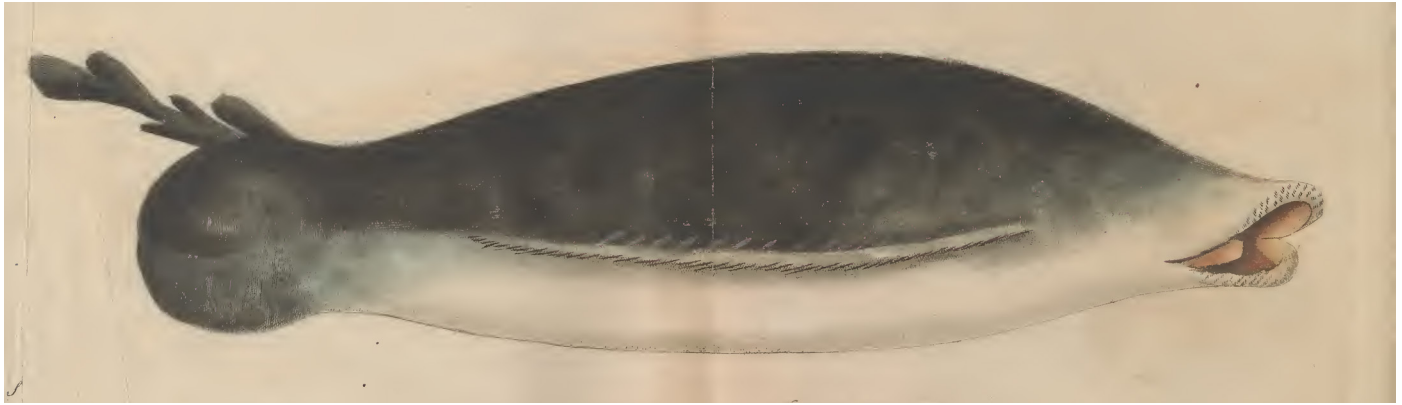


Order TORPEDINIFORMES

Coffin Ray¹

Family HYPNIDAE

Gill 1862



Hypnos monopterygius. From: Shaw, G. and F. P. Nodder. 1789–1813. *The Naturalist's Miscellany, or coloured figures of natural objects; drawn and described from nature*. J. Cooper, London. 24 vols. unnumbered pages. (This species dates from vol. 6, 1795.)

Hypnos

Duméril 1852

hýpnos (Gr. ὕπνος), sleep, referring to the numbing effect of its electric discharge

***Hypnos monopterygius* (Shaw 1795)** *mono-*, from *mónos* (Gr. μόνος), one; *pterygius*, from *pterygion*, diminutive of *ptéryx* (Gr. πτέρυξ), wing or fin, struck by the strangeness of this ray's appearance, Shaw surmised that it might be a "single-finned" member of the monkfish genus *Lophius* (Lophiidae), perhaps referring to how its pelvic fins are joined together to form a disc [authorship often given as Shaw & Nodder; Shaw apparently prepared the descriptions and Nodder the plates, so Shaw is considered the author]

¹ The common name "coffin ray" comes from the coffin-like shape of beached specimens, which become bloated after death. Source: Peter R. Last and John D. Stevens. *Sharks and Rays of Australia* (Australian Fisheries Research & Development Corporation, CSIRO, 1994).