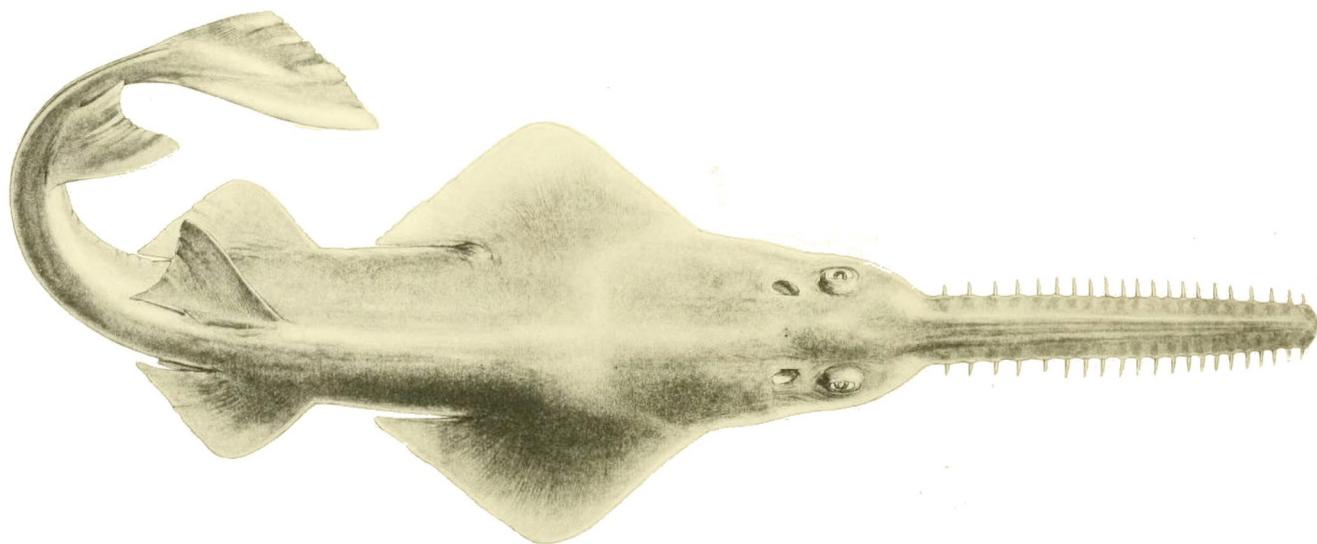


Order RHINOPRISTIFORMES

Sawfishes

Family PRISTIDAE

Bonaparte 1835



First-published image of *Pristis clavata*. From: Garman, S. 1913. The Plagiostomia (sharks, skates, and rays). Memoirs of the Museum of Comparative Zoology 36: i-xiii + 1–515 + Atlas (1–77 pls.).

Anoxypristis

White & Moy-Thomas 1941

oxys (Gr. ὀξύς), sharp or pointed; *pristis*, from *pristēs* (Gr. πρίστης), sawyer (also ancient Greek name for sawfishes), referring to blade-like teeth of saw-like snout [replacement name for *Oxypristis* Hoffman 1912, preoccupied in Hemiptera; the prefix *an-*, was added to avoid homonymy and has no special meaning]

***Anoxypristis cuspidata* (Latham 1794)** Latin for provided with a point, referring to rostral spines “shaped at the point more like the *lancet* used by surgeons in bleeding” [italics in original]

Pristis

Linck 1790

tautonymous with *Squalus pristis* Linnaeus 1758, from *pristēs* (Gr. πρίστης), sawyer (also ancient Greek name for sawfishes), referring to saw-like snout

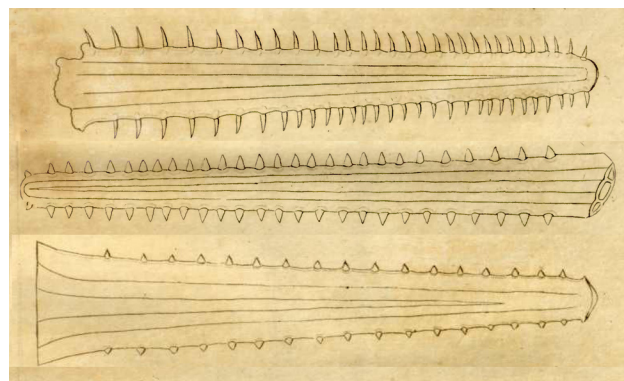
***Pristis clavata* Garman 1906** Latin for “furnished with nails,” allusion not explained, perhaps referring to its rostral teeth, described as “long, slender, and rounded on each edge” (i.e., like a nail)

***Pristis pectinata* Latham 1794** Latin for comb-toothed, presumably referring to its small, comb-like teeth, smaller than those of other sawfishes

***Pristis pristis* (Linnaeus 1758)** from *pristēs* (Gr. πρίστης), sawyer (also ancient Greek name for sawfishes), referring to saw-like snout

***Pristis zijsron* Bleeker 1851** etymology not explained, possibly an inadvertent Dutch spelling¹ (*zij* = *xy*) of *xystron* (Gr. ξυστρον), meaning file, rasp or scraper, or a scythe (usually serrated) attached to chariots,

either way referring to the fish’s serrated or saw-like rostrum; Bleeker used variants of the same word three additional times to convey a serrated morphological feature: the nemipterid *Nemipterus zysron* in 1856 (distinguished by the “serrated posterior margin of the preopercle” [translation]), the cyprinid *Puntioplites proctoziysron* in 1864 (which has a serrated anal-fin spine), and the pomacentrid *Neopomacentrus azysron* in 1877 (referring to its lack of preopercular serrations)



Rostra of (top) *Pristis pectinata*, (middle) *Anoxypristis cuspidata* and (bottom) *Pristis microdon* (= *P. pristis*). From: Latham, J. F. 1794. An essay on the various species of sawfish. Transactions of the Linnean Society of London 2 (art. 25): 273–282, Pls. 26–27.

¹ In subsequent papers, Bleeker used two spellings, *zijsron* and *zysron*, sometimes even in the same paragraph. “This might be the case that typesetters had problems deciphering Bleeker’s small and cramped writing. It is also possible that Bleeker (who was the editor of many periodicals in which he published his papers) did not do a good job of proofreading his manuscripts.” Quoted from: van Oijen, M. J. P., V. V. Faria and M. T. McDavitt. 2007. The curious holotype of *Pristis dubius* Bleeker, 1852 and the unravelling of Bleeker’s sawfish taxonomy. Raffles Bulletin of Zoology Suppl. 14: 37–49.