

Order CARCHARHINIFORMES

Hammerhead Sharks

Family SPHYRNIDAE

Bonaparte 1840



Illustration (as *Squalus zygaena*) from which *Eusphyrna blochii* was described. From: Bloch, M. E. 1785. Naturgeschichte der ausländischen Fische. Berlin. v. 1: i-viii + 1–136, Pls. 109–144.

***Eusphyrna***

Gill 1862

*εύ-*, a Greek (εὔ) intensive (i.e., well or very); *sphyrna*, from *sphúra* (Gr. σφύρα), hammer, referring to immense hammer-shaped head

***Eusphyrna blochii* (Cuvier 1816)** in honor of physician-naturalist Marcus Elieser Bloch (1723–1799), who described and illustrated this shark in 1785, which he identified as *Squalus zygaena*

***Eusphyrna laticeps* (Cantor 1837)** *latus* (L.), wide or broad; *-ceps* (Neo-Latin), headed, referring to wider head compared with other hammerhead sharks known to Cantor

***Sphyrna***

Rafinesque 1810

probable misspelling of *sphyrna*, from *sphúra* (Gr. σφύρα), hammer, referring to their hammer-shaped heads

Subgenus ***Sphyrna***

***Sphyrna gilberti* Quattro, Driggers, Grady, Ulrich & Roberts 2013** in honor of ichthyologist Carter R. Gilbert (1930–2022), Florida Museum of Natural History, who first reported (1967) an anomalous specimen of *S. lewini* that is likely the first recorded individual of this species

***Sphyrna lewini* (Griffith & Smith 1834)** patronym not identified, perhaps in honor of John Lewin (1770–1819), who illustrated early volumes of Australian natural history (this shark was described from Australia) and may be the “Mr. Lewin” who illustrated the plates in Griffith and Smith’s book<sup>1</sup>

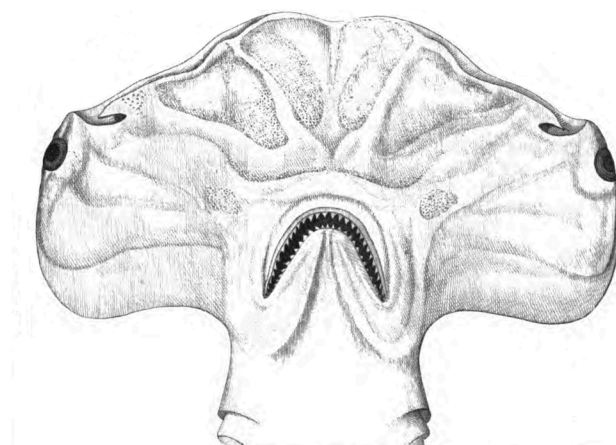
***Sphyrna mokarran* (Rüppell 1837)** Arabic vernacular for this shark, described from the Red Sea, possibly from *miqrn*, Arabic for horned, referring to the shape of its head

***Sphyrna zygaena* (Linnaeus 1758)** *zýgaina*, ancient Greek name (ζύγαινα) for hammerhead sharks, derived from *zygón* (Gr. ζυγόν), yoke, alluding to yoke-like shape of cephalofoil

Subgenus ***Mesozygaena***

Compagno 1988

*mésos* (Gr. μέσος), middle; *zýgaina*, ancient Greek name (ζύγαινα) for hammerhead sharks, derived from *zygón* (Gr. ζυγόν), yoke, alluding to yoke-like shape of cephalofoil, referring to its intermediate position between subgenera *Platysqualus* and *Sphyrna*



*Sphyrna tudes*, ventral view of head. From: Valenciennes, A. 1822. Sur le sous-genre Marteau, *Zygaena*. Mémoires du Muséum National d’Histoire Naturelle 9: 222–228, Pls. 1–2.

<sup>1</sup> José I. Castro, *The Sharks of North America* (Oxford University Press, 2011), suggests this shark was named after Danish military surgeon and anatomist Ludwig Lewin Jacobson (1783–1843), but cites no supporting evidence.

***Sphyrna corona* Springer 1940** Latin for crown or halo, allusion not explained, probably referring to irregularly oval ocularianial expanse

***Sphyrna media* Springer 1940** Latin for middle, allusion not explained, probably referring to its ocularianial expanse being “roughly intermediate in shape between that of hammerheads [subgenus *Sphyrna*] and shovelheads [subgenus *Platysqualus*]”

***Sphyrna tudes* (Valenciennes 1822)** Latin for hammer or mallet, referring to its hammer-shaped head

Subgenus *Platysqualus*

Swainson 1839

*platýs* (Gr. πλατύς), flat and/or broad, referring to flattened and laterally extended hammer-shaped head; *squalus* (L.), dirty or filthy (i.e., squalid), and an ancient Latin name for marine fishes considered unfit for human consumption, including sharks

***Sphyrna tiburo* (Linnaeus 1758)** from *tiburón*, Spanish for shark, a name given by 16th- and 17th-century navigators to one or more large species of shark

***Sphyrna vespertina* Springer 1940** Latin for western, an Eastern Pacific relative of the Western Atlantic *S. tiburo*