Rhinobatos

Classification:

Kingdom : Animalia

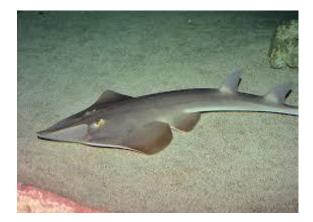
Phylum : Chordata

Class : Chondrichthyes

Order : Rhinopristiformes

Family ; Rhinobatidae

Genus : Rhinobatos



For further details, Link

Characteristics:

- Rhinobatos fish, or guitarfish, are cartilaginous fish with a flattened body, a wide pectoral disc, and an elongated tail.
- Rhinobatos species are bottom-dwelling cartilaginous fish that have a shark-like body with a flattened disc like a ray, large pectoral fins fused to the body, and two dorsal fins on their tail.
- They are distinguished by their narrow, pointed snout, widely separated rostral cartilage ridges, and the presence of small thorns on their disc and tail.
- **Physical Appearance:** They have a body plan that is a blend of a shark and a ray, featuring a flat, ray-like pectoral disc at the head and a more elongated, tubular body with a tail.
- Coloration: Their coloration, typically chocolate brown on top and white underneath, provides camouflage against their bottom-dwelling environment.
- Eye Movement: Rhinobatos can move their eyes independently, allowing them to look around their environment while mostly remaining still on the seabed.
- **Teeth:** Their teeth are adapted for both crushing and grasping, and they are set in an alternating pattern.
- **Size:** Rhinobatos rhinobatos (common guitarfish) can grow to be over 1.6 meters long.
- **Reproduction:** They are ovoviviparous, meaning they give birth to live young after the embryos develop inside the mother and receive nourishment. Some

species, such as Rhinobatos albomaculatus and Rhinobatos lionotus, are ovoviviparous, meaning the embryos develop inside the mother and are nourished by uterine fluids containing mucus, fat, or protein, in addition to the yolk sac.

Habit

- **Behavior:** Rhinobatos species are slow-swimming, bottom-dwelling fish that spend much of their time partially buried in the sand or mud.
- **Diet:** They are benthic predators that feed on crustaceans, mollusks, and small fish, often ambushing their prey by pinning them down with their snouts and then sucking them in.
- Social Structure: Outside of mating, they are solitary and not known to be territorial.

Habitat

- Location: Rhinobatos are found in the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea, with the common guitarfish being native to the eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean.
- **Depth:** They inhabit the continental shelf, from the intertidal zone down to depths of about 180 meters.
- **Substrate:** They prefer sandy and muddy bottoms but may also be found near rocky reefs.
- **Fisheries Impact:** Rhinobatos are susceptible to bottom trawling and other fishing methods, which has led to declining populations in some areas.
- **Vocalization:** The name Rhinobatos comes from the Greek words "rhinos" for nose and "batus" for steps, referring to their long, pointed snout.