

The Moray Eels of Australia and New Zealand, with the Description of Two New Species (Anguilliformes: Muraenidae)

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ABSTRACT. Australian and New Zealand moray eel type specimens in museums have been re-examined, their identities established, and brief descriptions of the specimens written. A key to the 59 muraenid species of Australia and New Zealand is presented. Ten species that have remained relatively unknown or inadequately described are redescribed and illustrated: *Gymnothorax annasona* Whitley, 1937; *G. atolli* (Pietschmann, 1935); *G. cribroris* Whitley, 1932a; *G. longinquus* (Whitley, 1948); *G. nubilus* (Richardson, 1848); *G. obesus* (Whitley, 1932a); *G. porphyreus* (Guichenot, 1848); *G. prasinus* (Richardson, 1848); *G. prionodon* Ogilby, 1895; and *G. woodwardi* McCulloch, 1912. A new species from northern Australia is described as *G. cephalospilus*, and one from southern Australia is described as *G. austrinus*. New synonymies are proposed: *Muraena helena australis* Richardson, 1848, and *Muraena vorax* Ogilby, 1907 = *Muraena helena* Linnaeus, 1758; *Muraena euptera* Günther, 1870 = *Gymnothorax nubilus* Richardson, 1848; *Muraena tuhua* Griffin, 1933, and *Gymnothorax griffini* Whitley & Phillipps, 1939 = *Gymnothorax obesus* (Whitley, 1932a); *Gymnothorax maculaepinnis* Bleeker, 1866, and *Gymnothorax leecote* Scott, 1965 = *Gymnothorax prasinus* (Richardson, 1848); and *Muraena mioszewska* Steindachner, 1896, *Gymnothorax leucostigma* Jordan & Richardson, 1909, *Gymnothorax nirosus* Tanaka, 1918, *Muraena shirleyi* Griffin, 1933, and *Lycodontis wooliensis* Whitley, 1968 = *Gymnothorax prionodon* Ogilby, 1895. Australian morays considered to be *nomina dubia* are: *Anarchias insuetus* Whitley, 1932b; *Gymnothorax dakini* Whitley & Colefax, 1938; *Gymnothorax garsiae* Whitley & Colefax, 1938; and *Gymnothorax scriptus* Schneider, 1801. Miscellaneous notes on the changes made to the listing of Australian morays by Paxton *et al.* (1989), a discussion of the distributions of Australian and New Zealand morays, and an index to all names are provided.

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