

First Mesozoic record of the stingray *Myliobatis wurnoensis* from Mali and a phylogenetic analysis of Myliobatidae incorporating dental characters

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New specimens, including the first record of lower dental plates, of the extinct myliobatid *Myliobatis wurnoensis* were recovered from the Maastrichtian (Late Cretaceous) of the Iullemeden Basin, Mali, and are the oldest record of the taxon. We evaluated the phylogenetic position of this taxon with reference to other myliobatids (extinct and extant) using osteology and dentition. Our results indicate that Myliobatinae and *Myliobatis* are each paraphyletic, and that *Aetobatus* and *Rhinoptera* are monophyletic. We also found that taxa known only from the Cretaceous, *Brachyrhizodus* and *Igdabatis*, are highly nested within Myliobatidae. The phylogenetic position of these taxa unambiguously extends the origin of Myliobatidae and most of its representative taxa into the Mesozoic.

Key words: Chondrichthyes, Myliobatidae, Myliobatiformes, dentition, batoid, ghost lineage, phylogeny, Cretaceous, Maastrichtian, Mali.

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