



APPLICATION OF THE “PRINCIPLE OF THE FIRST REVISER” TO  
DETERMINE THE CORRECT SPELLING FOR A RECENTLY DESCRIBED  
STINGRAY SPECIES FROM THE WESTERN SOUTH ATLANTIC OCEAN  
(CHONDRICHTHYES, MYLIOBATIFORMES, DASYATIDAE) <sup>1</sup>

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**ABSTRACT:** Two distinct spellings are present in a recent description of a new species of whiptailed stingray from the Western South Atlantic Ocean: *Dasyatis hipostigma* and *Dasyatis hypostigma*. In response to inquiries from researchers concerning the correct spelling of this nominal species, the original authors hereby invoke the Principle of the First Reviser, as determined by the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (Article 24.2), to establish its correct spelling as *Dasyatis hypostigma*.

**Key words:** *Dasyatis hypostigma*. Principle of the First Reviser. Taxonomy.

**RESUMO:** Aplicação do “Princípio do Primeiro Revisor” na determinação da grafia correta para a recém descrita espécie de raia-manteiga do oceano Atlântico Sul Ocidental (Chondrichthyes, Myliobatiformes, Dasyatidae).

Num recente trabalho de descrição de uma nova espécie de raia-manteiga do oceano Atlântico Sul Ocidental são observadas duas grafias distintas: *Dasyatis hipostigma* e *Dasyatis hypostigma*. Em resposta a consultas de pesquisadores sobre qual seria a grafia correta para esta espécie nominal, os autores originais fazem uso do Princípio do Primeiro Revisor, conforme previsto no Código Internacional de Nomenclatura Zoológica (Artigo 24.2), para estabelecer a sua grafia correta como *Dasyatis hypostigma*.

**Palavras-chave:** *Dasyatis hypostigma*. Princípio do Primeiro Revisor. Taxonomia.

A new species of whiptailed stingray from the Western South Atlantic Ocean was recently described as *Dasyatis hypostigma* Santos & Carvalho, 2004. The principal diagnostic feature of this species is a conspicuous “w”-shaped groove located ventrally on the coracoid bar posterior to the gill openings. The description of this new species finally elucidated the reported occurrence of *Dasyatis sayi* (Le Sueur, 1817) and *Dasyatis pastinaca* (Linnaeus, 1758) in the Southwestern Atlantic Ocean. It became evident that both nominal species do not occur in that region and that previous records in the Southwestern Atlantic were in fact misidentifications based on *Dasyatis hypostigma* Santos & Carvalho, 2004.

Two distinct spellings are present in the original description of this nominal species: *Dasyatis*

*hipostigma* and *Dasyatis hypostigma*. Since its publication, the authors have received several inquiries from other researchers questioning which is the correct spelling. With the objective to permanently resolve this issue, we hereby invoke the Principle of the First Reviser (ICZN 1999, Article 24.2.2:30): “(...) if two or more names, different or identical, and based on the same or different types, or two or more nomenclatural acts, are published on the same date in the same or different works, the precedence of the names or acts is fixed by the First Reviser (...)”, as well as “Recomendation 24A” (ICZN, 1999:31): “(...) an author should select the name, spelling or nomenclatural act that will best serve stability and universality of nomenclature”.

Therefore, endowed with the authority of First Reviser, we herein select *Dasyatis hypostigma* Santos & Carvalho, 2004 as the correct spelling

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for the nominal species in question, believing that this act will best serve the joint purposes of stability and universality of nomenclature.

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