Systematics and Biodiversity of Indian Ocean Sharks, Rays, and Chimaeras (Chondrichthyes)

The Indian Ocean, especially the Western Indian Ocean, is a biodiversity “hotspot” holding one of the most diverse Chondrichthyan fauna’s globally with >400 species, of which 22 new species have been described since 2016; this represents ~34% of all new species named during this period. The region also has a high degree of endemism, with 60+ species, many of which have very restricted geographic ranges. The number of new Indian Ocean species being discovered does not appear to show any signs of slowing, with additional new species currently under investigation, especially deep-sea species. This topical collection issue focuses on the rich biodiversity of Indian Ocean sharks, rays, and chimaeras, with the aim of clarifying the taxonomic status and descriptions of new shark, ray, and chimaera species.

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