



Metlaouia Noubhani and Cappetta, 1997 (Chondrichthyes: Orectolobiformes) preoccupied by *Metlaouia* Dumont, 1928 (Insecta: Lepidoptera)

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Several years ago, we published a series of new genera and species of elasmobranchs from the Maastrichtian–Paleogene of Morocco (Noubhani and Cappetta 1997). Among these is *Metlaouia* Noubhani and Cappetta, 1997 (Orectolobiformes, Orectolobidae), based on the type species *Squatirhina numidica* Arambourg, 1952.

Recently, Dr. John K. Page informed us of the existence of the homonym *Metlaouia* Dumont, 1928 (Lepidoptera, Noctuidae). The lepidopteran genus is available and has priority, so that *Metlaouia* Noubhani and Cappetta, 1997 must be regarded as a junior homonym. In accordance with the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature (ICZN 1999, articles 52, 60), we herein propose a new replacement name, *Eometlaouia*, for the fossil elasmobranch in question.

Genus *Eometlaouia* nov.

(= *Metlaouia* Noubhani and Cappetta, 1997)

Type species: *Squatirhina numidica* Arambourg, 1952.

Etymology: *Metlaoui*, southern Tunisia, the type locality; in combination with the prefix *eos* (Greek, dawn), in reference to the Eocene epoch.

Distribution.—*Metlaoui*, southern Tunisia; and Ouled Abdoun Basin, Morocco; Ypresian (early Eocene).

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