



## MARGARET M. SMITH

1916-1987, SOUTH AFRICA

Marine and freshwater ichthyologist and fish illustrator.

She produced ~ 2000 paintings of fish, being one of the leading fish illustrators in the world.

She and her husband jointly discovered 370 species of fish and published 500 papers. In 1952, they found a rare coelacanth fish order in the Comoros islands, only the second live specimen positively identified in modern history.

In 1982, she retired as Director of the J.L.B. Smith Institute at Rhodes University (South Africa).

### HERSTORY

Margaret was an important ambassador for South African science as an ichthyologist artist and academic.

# SOUTHERN AFRICAN FISH TAXONOMY



Plates 12 and 32 of the Book: The sea fishes of Southern Africa (1949). Illustrations made by Margaret M. Smith.  
From: <https://blog.biodiversitylibrary.org/2019/03/mary-margaret-smith.html>

# RELEVANT CONTRIBUTIONS

**Smith, M. M.,** Heemstra, P. C. (Eds.). (2012). *Smiths' sea fishes*. Springer Science & Business Media.

**Smith, M. M. (1988).** 26 September 1916 – 8 September 1987. South African Journal of Marine Science, 6:1, 1-2, DOI: [10.2989/025776188784480564](https://doi.org/10.2989/025776188784480564)

LOOKING  
FOR MORE?

You can find more information about her story and research at:

<https://blog.biodiversitylibrary.org/2019/03/mary-margaret-smith.html>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Margaret\\_Mary\\_Smith](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Margaret_Mary_Smith)

<https://www.sahistory.org.za/people/margaret-mary-smith>