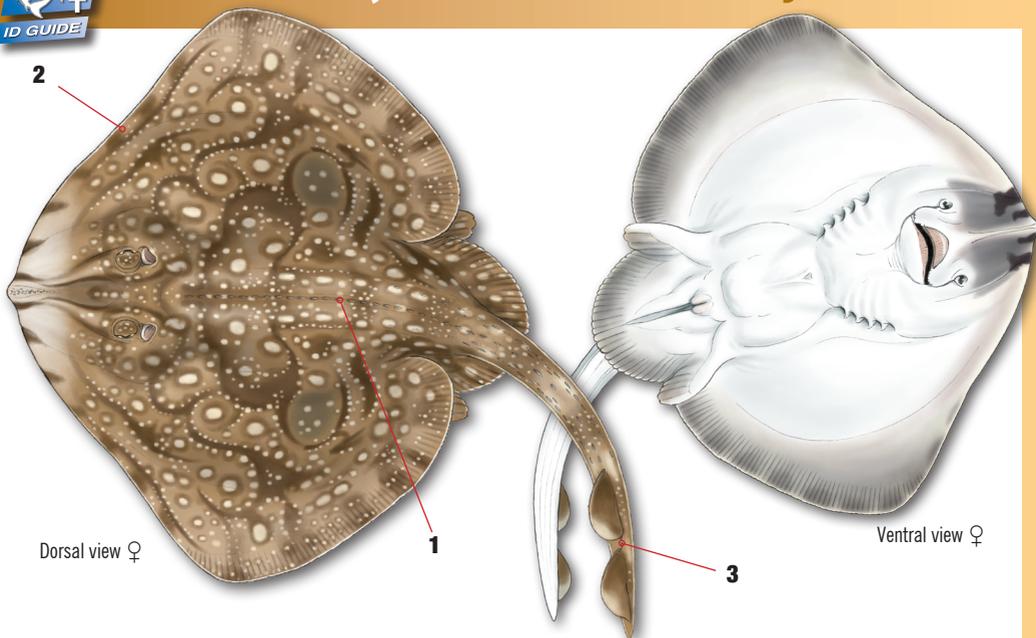


# Undulate Ray

# *Raja undulata*



Dorsal view ♀

Ventral view ♀

## SCIENTIFIC NAME

*Raja undulata* (Lacepède, 1802).

## DISTRIBUTION

Senegal to the southern and western coasts of the British Isles including the western Mediterranean. East to the Canary Isles<sup>4</sup>.



Light blue: No records  
Medium blue: Occasional  
Dark blue: Range

## COMMON NAME

**UNDULATE RAY**, Painted Ray, Undulate Skate, Raie Brunette (Fr), Raya mosaica (Es), Razza ondulata (It), Golfrog (Ne).

## IDENTIFICATION

- 1** 1 row of 20–55 thorns on midline in males, 3 in females.
- 2** Anterior disc margin undulates strongly.
- 3** 2 interdorsal thorns<sup>4</sup>.

## COLOUR

- Dorsal surface light yellow to black.
- Pattern of dark, wavy bands bordered by rows of white spots.
- Other larger white spots present.
- Ventral surface white with darker margins<sup>vi</sup>.

## BIOLOGY AND SIZE

- Born: ~14cm. Mature: 75cm ♀, 73cm ♂. Max TL: >100cm<sup>9</sup>.
- Juveniles feed mostly on small crustaceans, molluscs and fish. Adults specialise in crustaceans<sup>viii</sup>.
- Eggs are laid from March to September<sup>4</sup>.



## SIMILAR SPECIES

- *Raja radula*, **Rough Ray**
- *Raja microocellata*, **Small-eyed Ray**
- *Raja miraletus*, **Brown Ray**
- *Raja montagui*, **Spotted Ray**

## HABITAT

- Demersal, 10–200m<sup>v</sup>.
- Most common from 10–30m, catches decreasing rapidly with depth<sup>iii</sup>.
- Prefer sandy and soft mud substrates<sup>v</sup>.

## CONSERVATION STATUS

- Vulnerable to overexploitation as they have a patchy distribution, mature at a large size and produce few young. Populations have declined but details are uncertain<sup>vi</sup>.
- **Red List status:** Endangered (2008).

## COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

- Previously a commercially important species targeted across much of its range by trawl and trammel net fisheries<sup>v</sup>.
- In southern Portugal constituted >40% of all elasmobranchs taken by trammel nets<sup>iii</sup>.
- 2009 – Prohibition on commercial fishers retaining this species in ICES areas VI, VII, VIII & IX.

## HANDLING AND THORN ARRANGEMENT

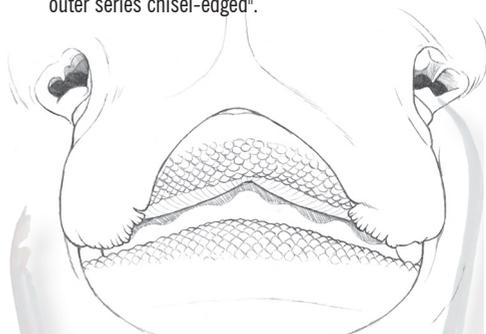
- Handle with care.
- Row of strong thorns on midline.
- Sometimes thorns between dorsal fins.

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## TEETH

- 40–50 rows of teeth in upper jaw.
- Inner series wedge-shaped, middle series pointed, outer series chisel-edged<sup>ii</sup>.



## EGGCASE



- 1 70–90mm in length (excluding horns).
- 2 45–60mm in width.
- 3 No keels<sup>ix</sup>.

Similar eggcase to the Spotted Ray, *Raja montagui*.  
(Eggcase shown actual size.)