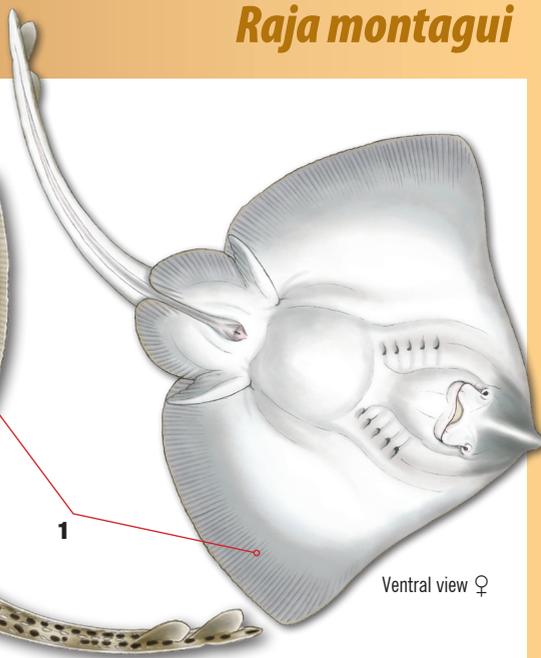
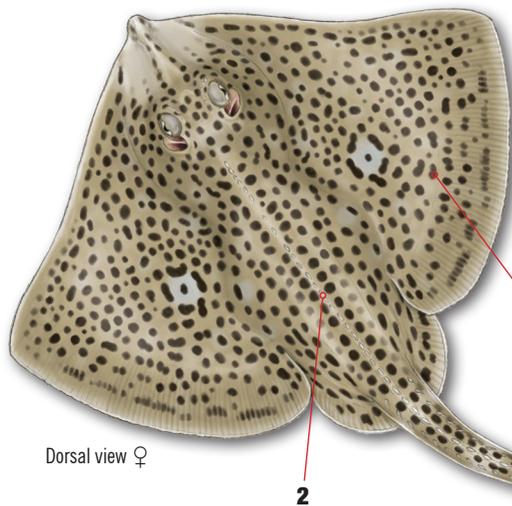


Spotted Ray

Raja montagui



Dorsal view ♀

Ventral view ♀

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SCIENTIFIC NAME

Raja montagui (Fowler, 1910).

DISTRIBUTION

Northeast Atlantic from the Shetland Isles to Morocco including the Mediterranean and western Balticⁱⁱⁱ.



COMMON NAME

SPOTTED RAY, Homelyn Ray, Spotted Homelyn Ray, Spotted Skate, Roker, Gefleckte Roche (De), Raie Douce (Fr), Razza Maculata (It), Raia Manchata (Pr), Raya Pintada (Es), Gevlekte Rog (Ne).

IDENTIFICATION

- 1 Broad pectoral fins almost form right angles^{vii}.
- 2 Row of 20–50 thorns along midline.
- 3 Skin smooth.

COLOUR

- Dorsal surface pale brown to yellow.
- Numerous dark spots which **do not** extend to very edge of disc.
- Rosette 'eye-spots' often present.
- Ventral surface white with darker margins^{vii}.

BIOLOGY AND SIZE

- Born: 8–10cmⁱ. Max TL: 80cmⁱⁱⁱ.
- Juveniles prey on small crustaceans, adults on larger crustaceans and teleost fish^v.
- Nursery areas occur in coastal waters^{vii}.



SIMILAR SPECIES

- Leucoraja naevus, **Cuckoo Ray**
- Raja brachyura, **Blonde Ray**
- Raja microcellata, **Small-eyed Ray**
- Raja undulata, **Undulate Ray**

HABITAT

- Demersal from coastal waters to 530mⁱⁱⁱ.
- Commonly encountered 30–150mⁱⁱⁱ.
- Prefer soft substrates such as sand in coastal seas and on the continental shelfⁱⁱⁱ.

CONSERVATION STATUS

- Less vulnerable to fishing pressure than many other rays due to small body size and relatively high fecundityⁱⁱⁱ.
- Red List status:** Least Concern (2007).

COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

- No target fishery exists due to its small size but it is commonly taken in multispecies trawl fisheries across its range.
- Larger individuals are landed and sold for human consumptionⁱⁱⁱ. Often confused with and marketed as Blonde Ray, *Raja brachyura*.
- 2009 – Species currently subject to TAC in EU waters.

HANDLING AND THORN ARRANGEMENT

- Handle with care.
- Row of strong thorns on midline.

REFERENCES

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TEETH

- Arranged into 38–60 rows in the upper jaw.
- Sharper in mature males than females and juvenilesⁱⁱ.



EGGCASE

- 53–78mm in length (excluding horns).
- 30–50mm in width.
- No keels^{vi}.

Similar eggcase to the Cuckoo Ray, *Leucoraja naevus*, and Undulate Ray, *Raja undulata*.

(Eggcase shown actual size.)

