

Dorsal view ♀

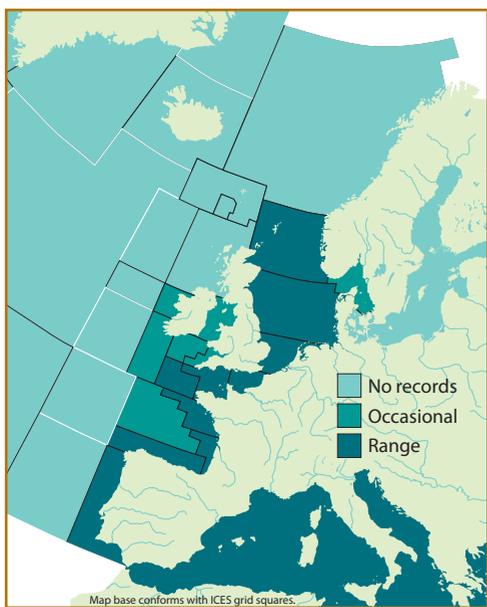
Ventral view ♀

## SCIENTIFIC NAME

*Dasyatis pastinaca* (Linnaeus 1758).

## DISTRIBUTION

Southern Norway to the northern Mediterranean<sup>viii</sup> including the western Baltic<sup>iii</sup> and the Black Sea<sup>x</sup>.



## COMMON NAME

**COMMON STINGRAY**, Blue Stingray, Fire Flaire, Pastenague Commune (Fr), Raya Latigo Comun (Es), Stechroche (De), Pastinaca (It), Uge (Pr), Pijlstaartrog (Ne).

## IDENTIFICATION

- 1 Short snout with straight leading edges of disc.
- 2 Long, thin tail up to 1.5 times the length of the body<sup>vi</sup>.
- 3 Spine on tail up to 12cm long with 74 ♀–98 ♂ serrations<sup>vi</sup>.

## COLOUR

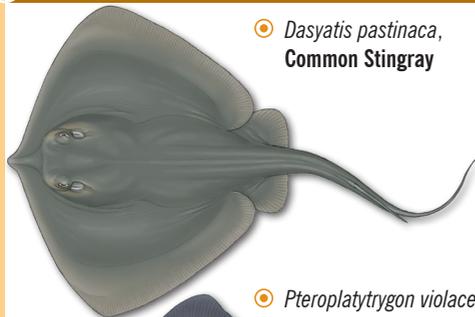
- Dorsal surface uniform dark brown to olive.
- Ventral surface white with dark margins<sup>vii</sup>.

## BIOLOGY AND SIZE

- Mature: 46cm ♀, 43cm ♂<sup>v</sup>. Max TL: 250cm, DW: 60cm<sup>i</sup>.
- Give birth in shallow waters to 4–7 young<sup>iv</sup>.
- Feed predominantly on crustaceans<sup>v</sup> with some small fish and molluscs<sup>v</sup>.



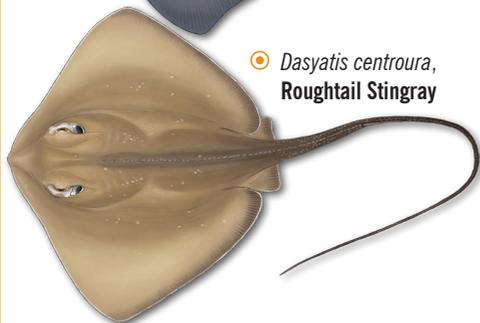
## SIMILAR SPECIES



○ *Dasyatis pastinaca*,  
Common Stingray



○ *Pteroplatytrygon violacea*,  
Pelagic Stingray



○ *Dasyatis centroura*,  
Roughtail Stingray

○ *Dasyatis tortonesi*, **Tortonese's Stingray**  
(not illustrated).

## HABITAT

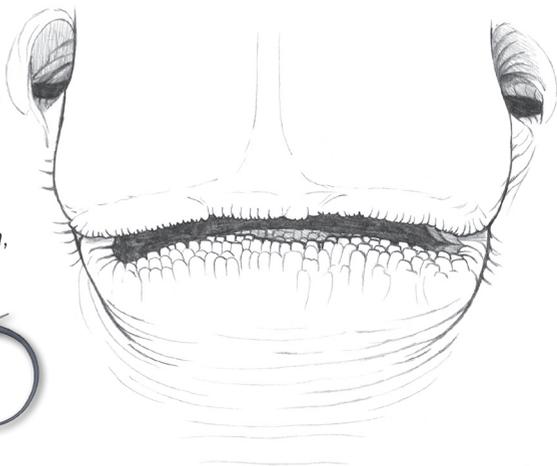
- From shallows to 200m.
- Most common to 60m.
- Found over soft substrates such as sand and mud<sup>viii</sup>.

## CONSERVATION STATUS

- Very few data. Appears to be rare in northeast Atlantic and has declined in the Bay of Biscay. Stable in the Mediterranean<sup>ii</sup>.
- **Red List status:** Data Deficient (2008).  
Near Threatened in northeast Atlantic.

## TEETH

- 28–43 rows<sup>ix</sup>.



## COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

- No targeted fishery but taken as bycatch in trawl, longline, trammel net and rod and line fisheries. Often discarded<sup>ii</sup>.
- Wings are sold smoked and dried-salted for human consumption, liver for oil and carcass for fishmeal<sup>vi</sup>.

## HANDLING AND THORN ARRANGEMENT

- Handle with care.
- Large venomous spine on tail.
- In extreme cases can cause paralysis<sup>vi</sup>.

## REFERENCES

- i. Ferretti, F. *et al*; 2005. ICES.
- ii. Gibson, C. *et al*; 2006. IUCN SSC Shark Specialist Group.
- iii. Greenberg, R; 2008. Oceana.
- iv. IBSS; Unknown.
- v. Ismen, A; 2003. *Fisheries Research*, Vol. 60 (1): 169–176.
- vi. Luna, S. M; 2008. Fishbase.
- vii. Schwartz, F. J; 2007. *Smithiana, Publications in Aquatic Biodiversity*, Bulletin 8: 41–52
- viii. Serena, F; 2005. FAO.
- ix. Van der Elst, R. *et al*; 1997. Random House Struik.
- x. Whitehead, P. J. P. *et al*; 1986. UNESCO.
- xi. Wölfel, D; 1994. Draga.