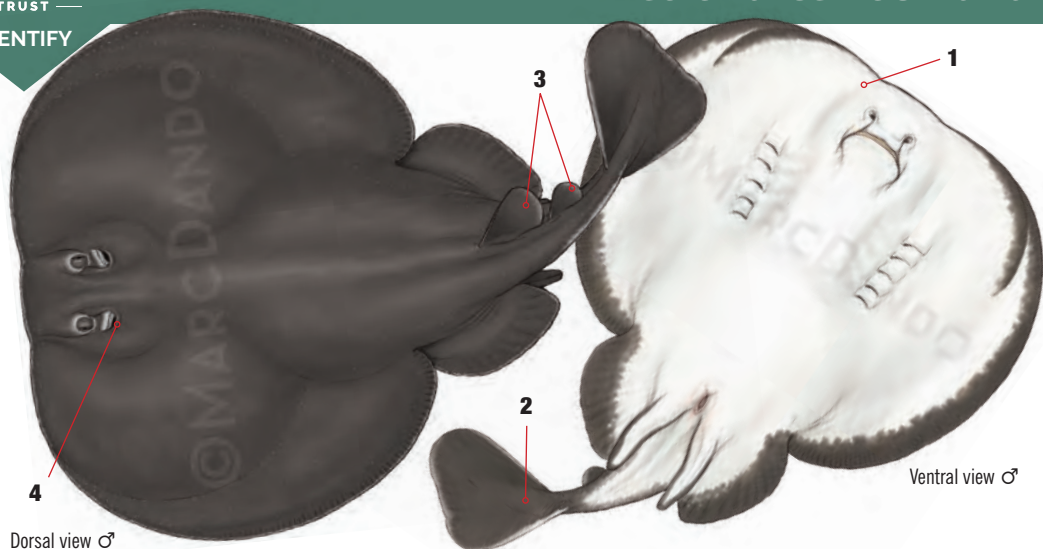


ATLANTIC TORPEDO RAY

Tetronarce nobiliana



Dorsal view ♂

Ventral view ♂

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Tetronarce nobiliana (Bonaparte, 1835)

DISTRIBUTION

Widespread across temperate latitudes. Eastern Atlantic from Scotland to South Africa including the Mediterranean Sea. Known in the Western Atlantic from Canada to Brazil.¹⁻³

COMMON NAMES

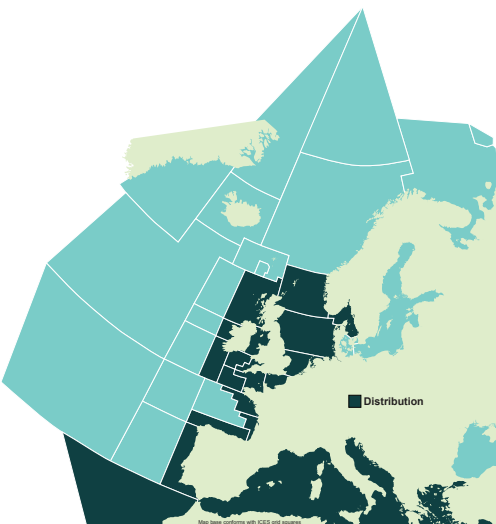
ATLANTIC TORPEDO RAY, Atlantic Electric Ray, Black Torpedo, Crampfish, Numbfish, Dark Electric Ray, Great Torpedo, Dunkler Zitterrochen (DEU), Tremolina Negra (ESP), Torpille Noire (FRA), Torpedine Nera (ITA), Zwarte Sidderrog (NLD), Tremelga-negra (PRT).

IDENTIFICATION AND COLOUR

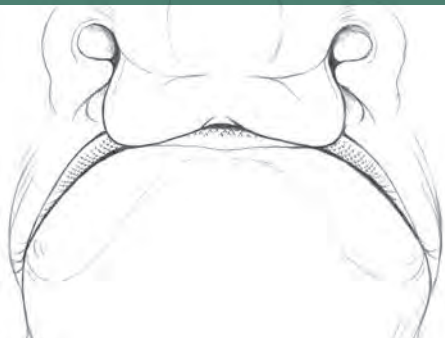
- 1 Round, fleshy body with straight leading edge of disc.^{2,3}
 - 2 Short, thick tail with large caudal fin.^{2,3}
 - 3 Two close-set dorsal fins.^{2,3}
 - 4 No papillae around spiracles.^{2,3}
- Dorsal surface uniform dark grey to purple-brown.^{2,3}
 - Ventral surface creamy white with dark margins.^{2,3}

SIZE AND BIOLOGY

- Birth: 20cm.
- Max. TL: 180cm.^{1,2}
- Litters of up to 60 pups after ~12 month gestation.^{2,3}
- Large, kidney shaped electric organs are capable of discharging a powerful current used to stun prey or for defence.^{2,3}
- Nocturnal, remaining hidden in the sand during the day and actively hunting at night.²
- Juveniles feed on small benthic fishes and invertebrates. Adults feed primarily on larger teleosts.²



TEETH



- Small, curved, single-cusped teeth arranged in >50 rows in larger specimens.³

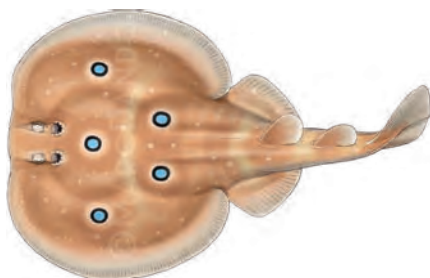
SPIRACLES



SIMILAR SPECIES



Marbled Torpedo Ray *Torpedo marmorata*



Common Torpedo Ray *Torpedo torpedo*

HABITAT

- Juveniles mainly demersal to depths of 0–150m over continental and insular shelves and slopes. Found over soft substrates.^{1–3}
- Adults pelagic to ~925m; capable of longer-distance movements.^{1,2}

CONSERVATION STATUS*

- IUCN Red List: Global: Data Deficient (2009)
Europe: Least Concern (2015)
Mediterranean: Least Concern (2016)
- Little is known about the population trends for *T. nobiliana*. It is possibly vulnerable to bottom trawl and line fisheries.¹

COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

- Of little commercial importance. Taken as bycatch in demersal and pelagic fisheries, usually discarded.^{1,2}
- Historically utilised for its liver oil.¹

MANAGEMENT*

- No species-specific management in the Northeast Atlantic.

REFERENCES

- 1 Bradai & Ellis. 2015.
- 2 Ebert & Stehmann. 2013.
- 3 Last *et al.* 2016.