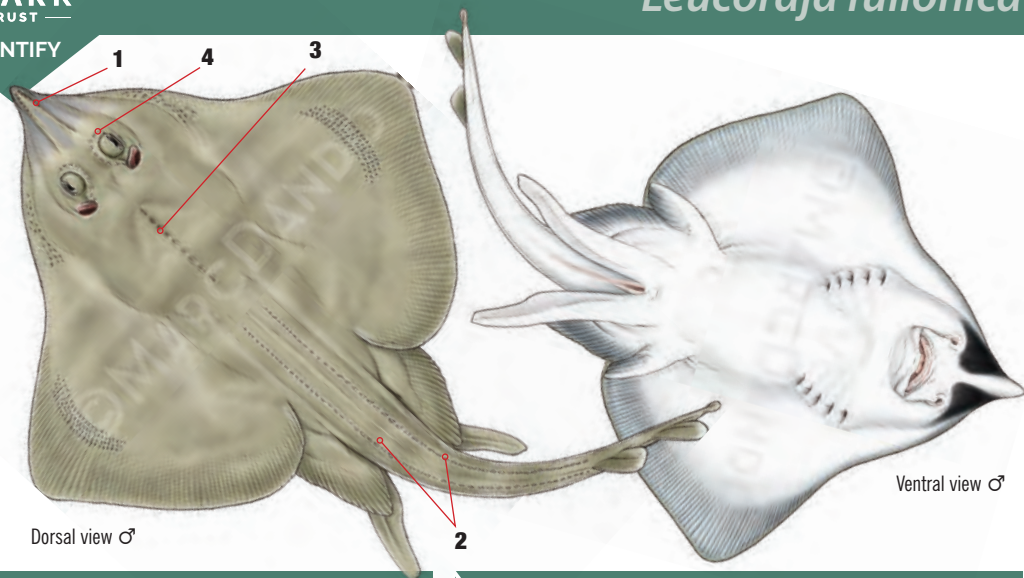




SCIENTIFIC NAME

Leucoraja fullonica (Linnaeus, 1758)

DISTRIBUTION

Northeast Atlantic from Iceland, Norway and Scotland to northern Morocco and Madeira including the Western Mediterranean Sea.^{1,2}

COMMON NAMES

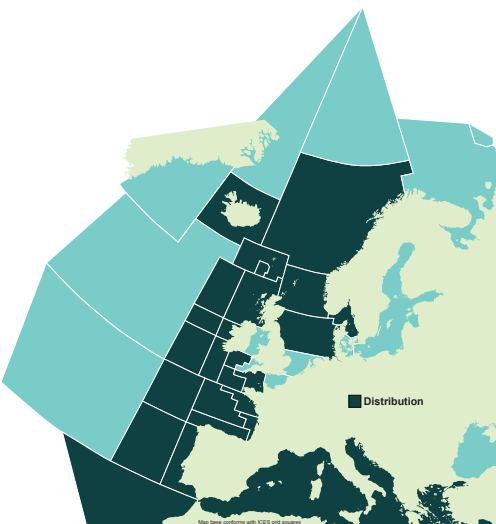
SHAGREEN RAY, Shagreen Skate, Fuller's Ray, Fuller's Shagreen Ray, Rough Flapper, French Ray, Chagrinrochen (DEU), Raya Cardadora (ESP), Raie Chardon (FRA), Razza Spinosa (ITA), Kaardrog (NLD), Raia Pregada (PRT).

IDENTIFICATION AND COLOUR

- 1 Pronounced snout.^{1,3}
 - 2 2 rows of ~50 large thorns either side of the midline to first dorsal fin.^{1,3}
 - 3 3–9 thorns in longitudinal row on upper part of head.^{1,3}
 - 4 ~8 distinct orbital thorns.^{1,3}
- Solid ash grey/brown.^{1,3}
 - Inconspicuous darker lines may run across body, more pronounced in younger individuals.^{1,3}
 - Ventral surface white with light grey margins on wings and anterior pelvic fins.^{1,3}

SIZE AND BIOLOGY

- Matures: female >82cm; male 75–82cm.
- Max. TL: 120cm.^{1,4}
- Oviparous, little else is known about the biology of the Shagreen Ray.^{1,3}
- Primarily feeds on benthic invertebrates and teleosts. Larger individuals predate on both teleosts and cartilaginous fishes.^{1,3}



EGGCASE

- 45–67mm wide.⁵
- 75–89mm long (excl. horns).⁵
- Anterior horns much longer than posterior horns.^{1,3}
- Similar eggcase to the Sandy Ray, *Leucoraja circularis* and the Cuckoo Ray, *L. naevus*.^{1,3}



Eggcase © Ane Lynghammar

SIMILAR SPECIES

Starry Ray

Amblyraja radiata



Sandy Ray

Leucoraja circularis



Small-eyed Ray

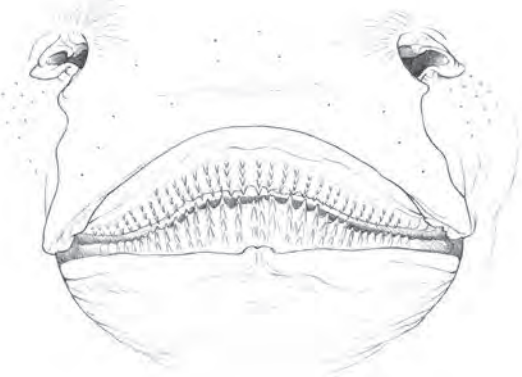
Raja microocellata



HABITAT

- Demersal from 30–550m. Occasionally to 800m in the Mediterranean Sea.^{1–3,6}
- Found on the outer continental shelf, upper slope and occasionally inner shelf over a range of substrates.^{1,3}

TEETH



- Pointed teeth.³
- Teeth set in parallel rows in larger specimens.³
- Upper jaw: 58–68.³

CONSERVATION STATUS*

IUCN Red List:

Global: Vulnerable (2015)

Europe: Vulnerable (2015)

Mediterranean: Critically Endangered (2016)

- The large size of this skate at maturity suggests slow life history characteristics make it vulnerable to fishing pressure. Intensive demersal fishing for other species is suspected to have resulted in a decline in the range of this skate.⁶

COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

- Not a commercially targeted species but taken as bycatch in multispecies demersal fisheries.⁶
- Larger specimens are landed and used for human consumption.²

MANAGEMENT*

- Subject to regulations under the CFP.

REFERENCES

- 1 Last *et al.* 2016.
- 2 McCully & Walls. 2015.
- 3 Ebert & Stehmann. 2013.
- 4 McCully *et al.* 2012.
- 5 Gordon *et al.* 2016.
- 6 Gibson *et al.* 2008.