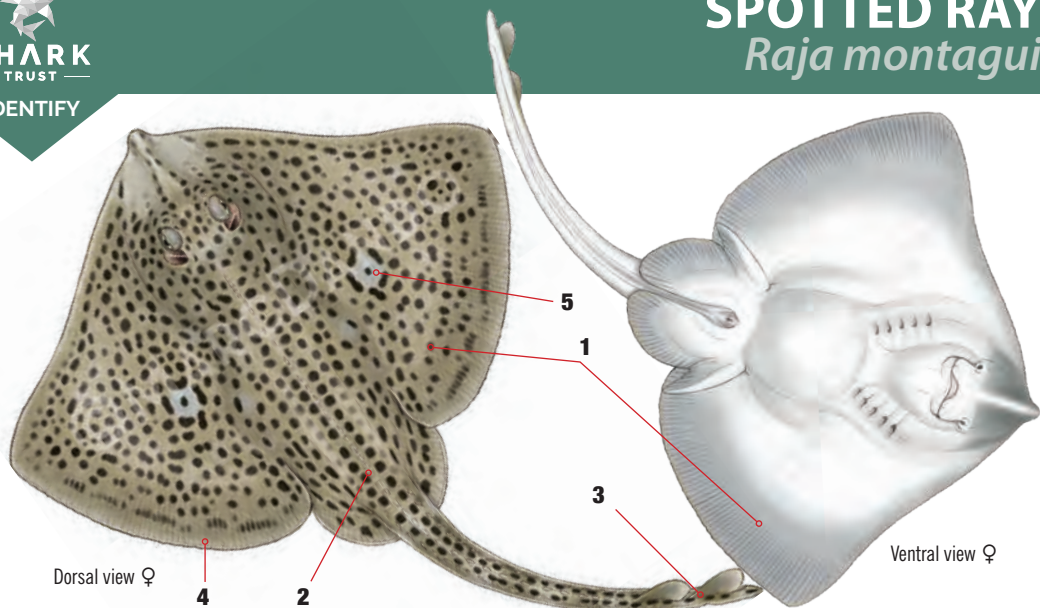




Dorsal view ♀

Ventral view ♀

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Raja montagui Fowler, 1910

DISTRIBUTION

Widely distributed in the Northeast Atlantic from the British Isles and Norway south to Morocco, including the Canary Islands and Mediterranean Sea.¹⁻⁴

COMMON NAMES

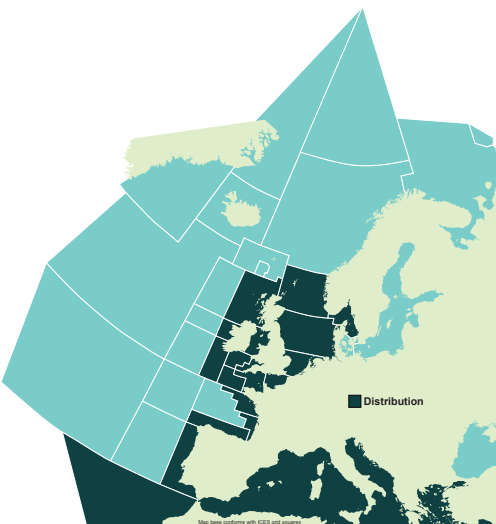
SPOTTED RAY, Spotted Skate, Homelyn Ray, Spotted Homelyn Ray, Roker, Gefleckter Rochen (DEU), Raya Pintada (ESP), Raie Douce (FRA), Razza Maculata (ITA), Gevlekte Rog (NLD), Raia Manchada (PRT).

IDENTIFICATION AND COLOUR

- 1 Broad wings, almost form right angles.^{1,4}
 - 2 Row of 20–50 thorns from nape to first dorsal fin.^{1,4}
 - 3 1–2 interdorsal thorns.^{1,4}
 - 4 Numerous dark spots which do not extend to very edge of disc.^{1,4}
 - 5 Frequently a ring of dark spots present on the wings giving the appearance of an 'eye-spot'.^{1,4}
- Dorsal surface pale greyish-brown to yellow, and smooth.^{1,4}
 - Ventral surface white with darker margins.^{1,4}

SIZE AND BIOLOGY

- Birth: 8–10cm.
- Matures: female 49–70cm; male 40–66cm.
- Max. TL: 80cm.^{1,4,5}
- Oviparous, females lay 60–70 eggcases per year during summer on sandy or muddy substrates. Embryonic development takes 5–6 months.¹⁻⁴
- Juveniles prey on small crustaceans; adults on larger crustaceans and teleosts.^{1,4}



EGGCASE

- ▶ 29–37mm wide.⁶
- ▶ 32–75mm long (excl. horns).⁶
- ▶ No keels. Similar eggcase to the Cuckoo Ray, *Leucoraja naevus*, and Undulate Ray *Raja undulata*.⁶



SIMILAR SPECIES

Cuckoo Ray

Leucoraja naevus



Blonde Ray

Raja brachyura



Small-eyed Ray

Raja microocellata



Undulate Ray

Raja undulata



TEETH



- ▶ Flat, blunt cusp in pavement pattern in females and juveniles. Sharper, longer and set in parallel rows in mature males.¹
- ▶ Upper jaw: <60 (c.f. Blonde Ray *Raja brachyura*, >60).^{1,4}

CONSERVATION STATUS*

- ▶ IUCN Red List: Global: Least Concern (2007)
Europe: Least Concern (2015)
Mediterranean: Least Concern (2016)
- ▶ A smaller bodied, widespread skate common in landings from fisheries and trawl surveys. Its small size and high fecundity may mean it is more resilient to fishing pressures than larger bodied skates.^{2,3}

COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

- ▶ Regularly taken as bycatch in multispecies trawl and gillnet fisheries across its range.
- ▶ Larger species are landed and sold for human consumption.¹⁻³

MANAGEMENT*

- ▶ Subject to regulations under the CFP.

REFERENCES

- 1 Ebert & Stehmann. 2013.
- 2 Ellis *et al.* 2007.
- 3 Ellis *et al.* 2015.
- 4 Last *et al.* 2016.
- 5 McCully *et al.* 2012.
- 6 Gordon *et al.* 2016.

HABITAT

- ▶ Demersal from 30–150m, rarely to 530m.¹⁻⁴
- ▶ Found in coastal areas and on the continental shelf over soft substrates.¹⁻⁴