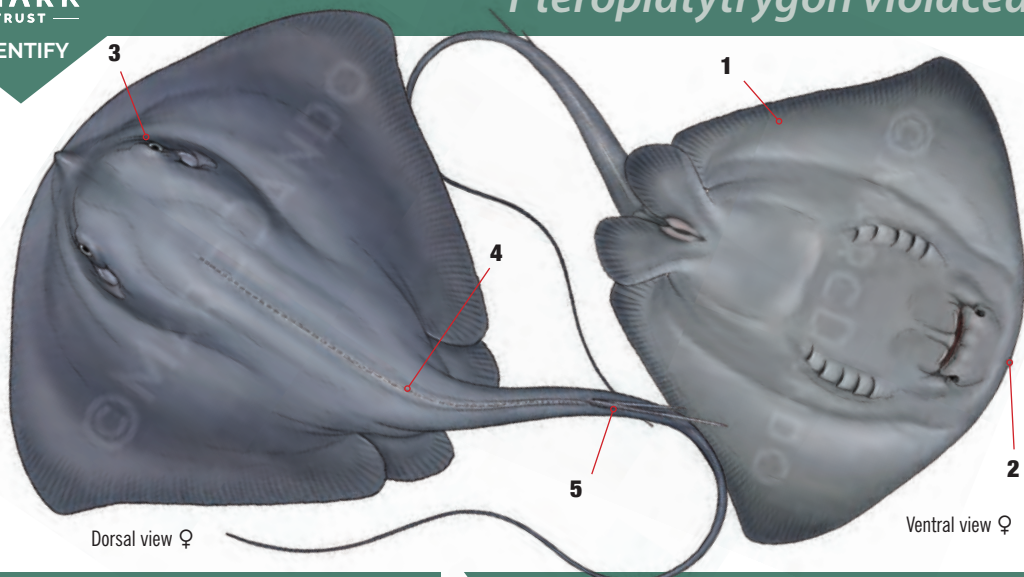


PELAGIC STINGRAY

Pteroplatytrygon violacea



Dorsal view ♀

Ventral view ♀

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Pteroplatytrygon violacea (Bonaparte, 1832)

DISTRIBUTION

Circumglobal in tropical and warm temperate waters in the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans. Eastern Atlantic primarily from the Bay of Biscay to South Africa but vagrants reported around the British Isles. Occurs in the Mediterranean Sea.¹⁻⁵

COMMON NAMES

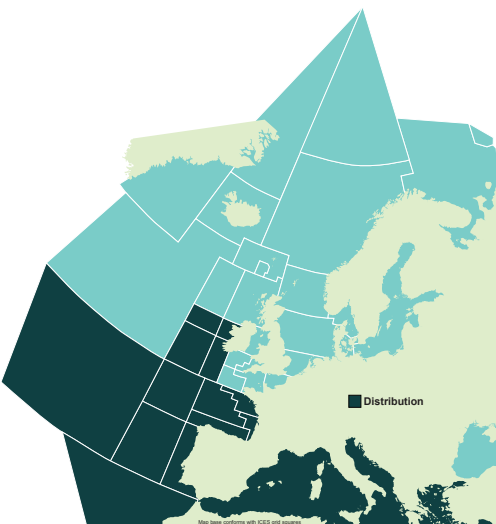
PELAGIC STINGRAY, Violet Stingray, Blue Stingray, Guiler's Stingray, Pelagischer Stechrochen (DEU), Raya Latigo Violeta (ESP), Pastenague Violette (FRA), Trigone Viola (ITA), Violette Pijlstaartrog (NLD), Uge-violeta (PRT).

IDENTIFICATION AND COLOUR

- 1 Flattened broad disc, wider than long, nearly triangular in shape.³⁻⁵
 - 2 Short, bluntly rounded snout.³⁻⁵
 - 3 Small eyes do not protrude from body.^{3,5}
 - 4 Row of small thorns from nape to spine.^{4,6}
 - 5 Serrated tail spine.⁴⁻⁶
- Uniform dark purple to blue-green or black dorsally.^{4,5}
 - Ventral side slightly lighter than dorsal surface.^{4,5}

SIZE AND BIOLOGY

- Birth: 14–24cm DW.
- Matures: female 40–50cm DW; male 35–40cm DW.
- Max. TL: 80cm DW; 160cm TL (if tail is undamaged). Size varies with latitude and temperature.⁴
- Viviparous, litters of 2–9 pups born after a 2–4 month gestation.³⁻⁵
- Diet consists of cephalopods, crustaceans and bony fishes.^{3-5,7}



PLS

Global:

LC

Europe:

LC

Med:

LC

Max. length:

160cm

TEETH

- ▶ Sharp teeth set in pavement pattern.⁴
- ▶ Upper jaw: 28–34 rows.^{3,4}
- ▶ Lower jaw: 19 rows either side a symphyseal tooth.³

SIMILAR SPECIES



Roughtail Stingray *Dasyatis centroura*



Common Stingray *Dasyatis pastinaca*

Tortonese's Stingray *Dasyatis tortonesi* (no illus.)

HABITAT

- ▶ Possibly the only pelagic and oceanic stingray species.^{1–5,8}
- ▶ Surface to 240m. Most commonly to 100m over continental and insular shelves and the open ocean.^{1–5,8}



CONSERVATION STATUS*

- ▶ IUCN Red List: Global: Least Concern (2019)
Europe: Least Concern (2015)
Mediterranean: Least Concern (2016)
- ▶ Widespread, oceanic species commonly bycaught in pelagic fisheries, where it is usually discarded. Moderately high fecundity and wide distribution makes this species more resistant to fishing pressure.^{1,2,4}

COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

- ▶ Low commercial importance. Regularly taken as bycatch across its range in pelagic longline, driftnet and purse seine fisheries targeting swordfish and tuna; generally discarded but landed and utilised in some regions.^{1,2,7,9}

MANAGEMENT*

- ▶ No species-specific management in the Northeast Atlantic.

REFERENCES

- 1 Kyne *et al.* 2019.
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- 3 Bester *et al.* n.d.
- 4 Ebert & Stehmann. 2013.
- 5 Last *et al.* 2016.
- 6 Schwartz, F.J. 2005.
- 7 Lipej *et al.* 2013.
- 8 Mollet, H.F. 2002.
- 9 Báez *et al.* 2015.