

Dorsal view ♀

Ventral view ♀

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Dasyatis pastinaca (Linnaeus, 1758)

DISTRIBUTION

Southern Norway and British Isles to Morocco, incl. the Azores, the Canary Islands and Madeira. Found in the Mediterranean and Black Seas.¹⁻⁴

COMMON NAMES

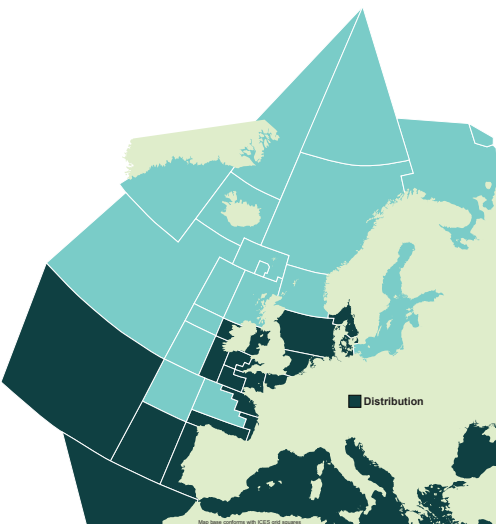
COMMON STINGRAY, Blue Stingray, Gewöhnlicher Stechrochen (DEU), Raya Látigo Común (ESP), Pastenague Commune (FRA), Pastinaca Commune (ITA), Pijlstaartrog (NLD), Uge (PRT).

IDENTIFICATION AND COLOUR

- Short snout with straight leading edges of disc.^{1,2}
 - Long, thin tail up to 1.5 times the length of the body.^{1,2}
 - Spine on tail up to 12cm long with serrations: 74 female; 98 male.^{1,2}
- ▶ Dorsal surface uniform dark brown-grey to olive.^{1,2}
 - ▶ Ventral surface white with dark margins.^{1,2}

SIZE AND BIOLOGY

- ▶ Birth: 12cm.
- ▶ Matures: female 38–41cm; male 30–31cm.
- ▶ Max.: DW: 68cm; but with reports to 140cm.^{1,2,5,6}
- ▶ Litters of 4–9 pups are delivered in shallow waters after a four month gestation.^{1,5}
- ▶ Primarily feeds on benthic crustaceans, small molluscs and teleosts.^{1,2,5}

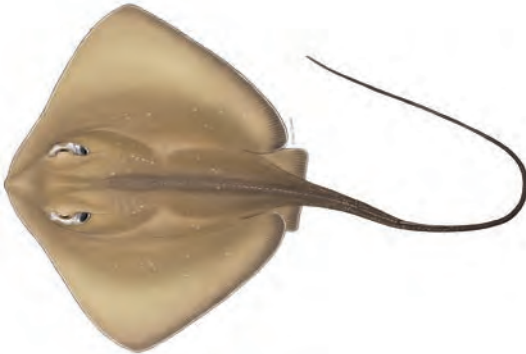


TEETH

- ▶ Flat teeth arranged to form pavement like structure.¹
- ▶ Upper jaw: 28–43.¹



SIMILAR SPECIES



Roughtail Stingray *Dasyatis centroura*



Pelagic Stingray *Pteroplatytrygon violacea*

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

HABITAT

- ▶ Demersal from shallows to 200m, most commonly to 60m.^{1,3,4}
- ▶ Found on continental shelves and in estuaries and areas with brackish water.^{1–4}
- ▶ Prefers sandy and muddy substrates.^{1,3,4}

CONSERVATION STATUS*

- ▶ IUCN Red List: Global: Data Deficient (2009)
Europe: Vulnerable (2015)
Mediterranean: Vulnerable (2016)
- ▶ The shallow depth distribution of this stingray makes this species vulnerable to coastal fisheries.^{3,4}

COMMERCIAL IMPORTANCE

- ▶ Occasionally targeted by regional and artisanal fisheries in Mediterranean and African waters. Taken as bycatch in small-scale trawl, longline, trammel net and rod and line fisheries.^{1,3,4}
- ▶ Often discarded but where retained its wings are utilised smoked or dried and salted for human consumption, its liver for oil and carcass for fish meal.¹

MANAGEMENT*

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

REFERENCES

- 1 Ebert & Stehmann. 2013.
- 2 Last *et al.* 2016.
- 3 Serena *et al.* 2009.
- 4 Serena *et al.* 2015.
- 5 Ismen, A. 2003.
- 6 Saadaoui *et al.* 2015.