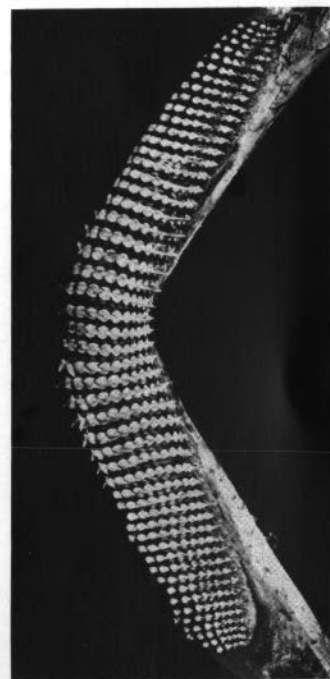
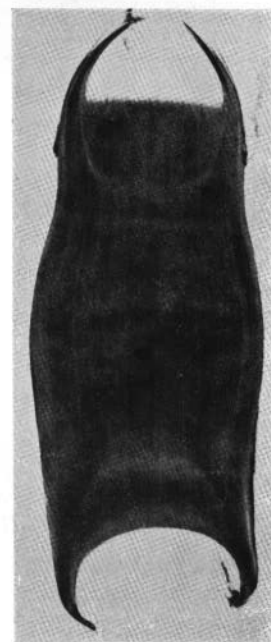
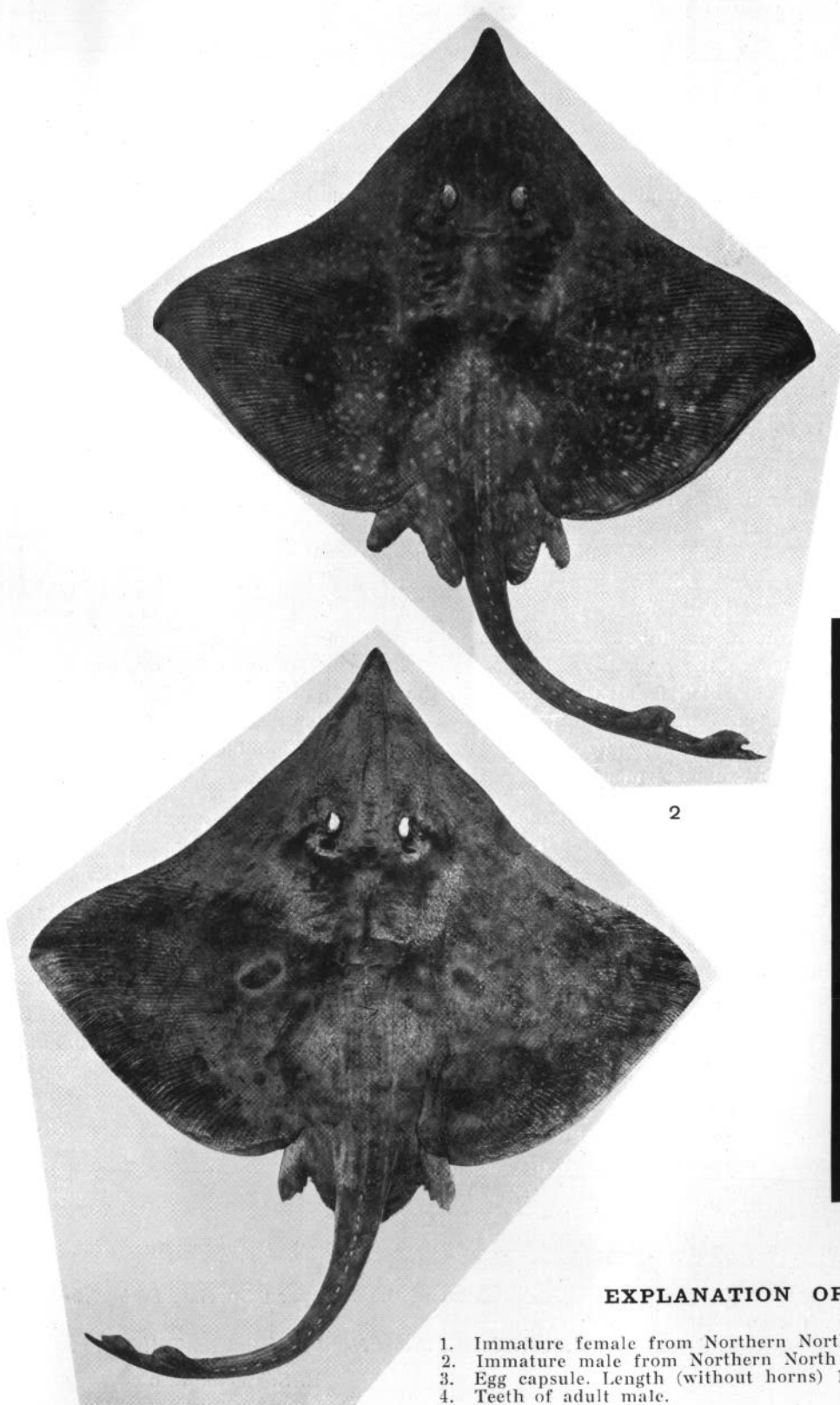


SELACHII
Hypotremata Raiidae

Raia batis

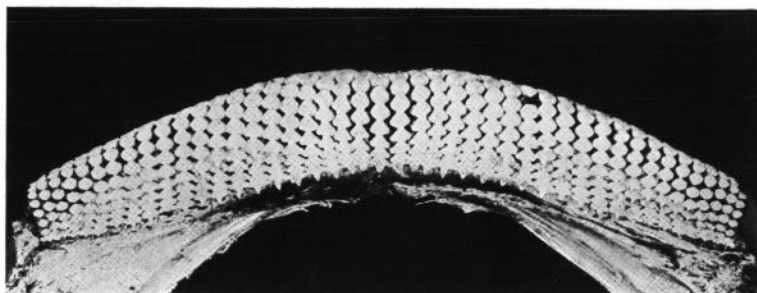
LINNAEUS 1758

Raia batis LINNAEUS 1758



EXPLANATION OF FIGURES

1. Immature female from Northern North Sea. Width of disc 554 mm.
2. Immature male from Northern North Sea. Width of disc 635 mm.
3. Egg capsule. Length (without horns) 163 mm. Width 82 mm.
4. Teeth of adult male.
5. Teeth of adult female.



5

DIAGNOSIS — Maximal recorded length 2500 mm. and width 1550 mm. The line joining tip of snout to the outer angle passes well outside the anterior margin of disc. *Disc.* length 50 to 57 per cent. and width 70 to 75 per cent. in total length of disc. *Disc.* length 50 to 57 per cent. and width 70 to 75 per cent. in total length pointed and projecting, its length 3.75 to 4.6 times in width of disc. Interorbital width 2.5 to 3.5 times (adult) or about 4 times (young) in length of snout. *Teeth:* (adult) flattish with conical cusps which are long in males and short in females: rows separate in males, close set and overlapping in females: 44 to 55 rows in upper jaw. *Upper surface* smooth in young and more or less spinulose in adults. Females usually rougher than males. Orbital spines present only in young; no other spines on the body. Tail with a median row of spines usually less than 20 in young but very variable in number in adults. Lateral series present or absent: when present, as many as 30 or as few as 1. Colour olive, grey or brown, usually with oval or rounded yellow spots and black dots. An oval ocellus generally present on each wing in young stages. *Lower surface* more or less spinulose. Snout and part of anterior margin of disc nearly always strongly spinulose. Colour ashy-grey to blue-grey with the ends of the tubules as black dots or streaks. *Egg capsule* biconvex, its length about twice the breadth: shell covered with a close-felted mass of fibres. A patch of loose elongated filaments attached to the capsule at the base of the long horns. Tips of horns filamentous. Colour golden yellow. Range in length (without horns) 143 to 245 mm. and greatest width 77 to 145 mm. Ripe females observed mostly in the spring-summer months.

DISTRIBUTION — Shallow to deep water—10 to 600 metres, maximal frequency 90 to 200 metres. Coasts of Europe from the Murman coast to Madeira; South Africa (*Bonde and Swart*); Mediterranean (*Moreau, Carus, Rafinesque, Risso, Bonaparte*); Baltic (rare); North Sea (general); Iceland; Faroes.

COMMON NAMES — British, Skate, Blue Skate and Grey Skate; Danish, Skate; Dutch, Vleet; French, Pocheteau; German, Glattroche; Norwegian, Glat skate; Swedish, Slattrocka.

SYNONYMY — *R. intermedia* Parnell 1837. *R. macrorhynchus* Günther 1870.

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R. S. CLARK 1930