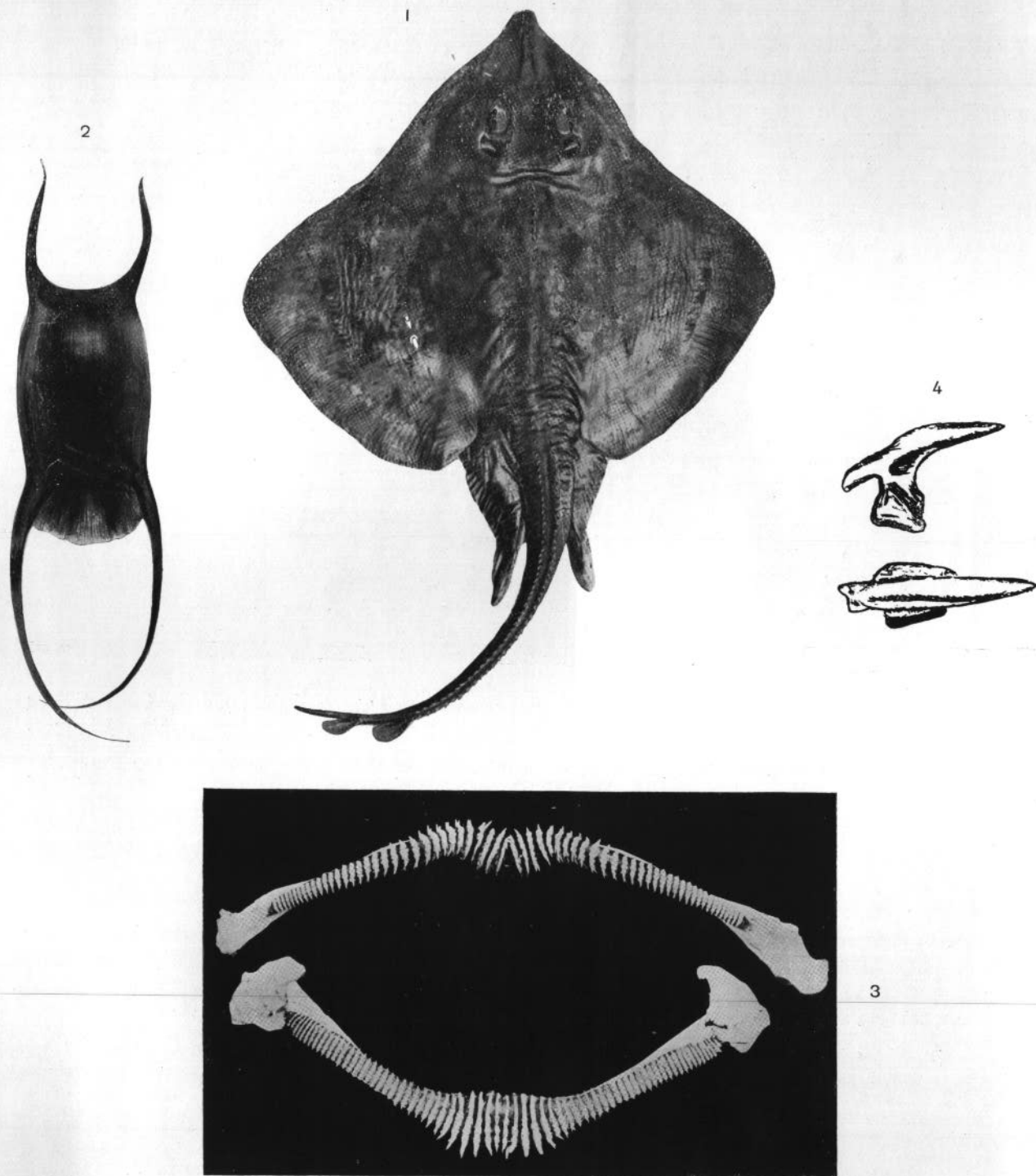


SELACHII  
*Hypotremata Raiidæ*

# *Raia fullonica*

LINNÆUS 1758



## EXPLANATION OF FIGURES

1. Adult male from Butt of Lewis. Width of disc 487 mm. — 2. Egg Capsule. Length (without horns) 88 mm. Width 46 mm. — 3. Teeth of adult male. — 4. Single tooth enlarged.

**DIAGNOSIS** — This species reaches a length of 1100 mm. and a breadth of 660 mm. *Disc* — length 48-52 per cent. and width 55-65 per cent. in total length of fish; anterior margin more undulated in males than in females, scarcely crossing the line joining tip of snout and outer angle. Snout elongated, acutely pointed and rounded at the tip, its length five to six times in width of disc and about three times the interorbital width which is equal to or slightly greater than the longitudinal diameter of the eye. Praeorall length about twice the internasal width. Width of disc equal to the distance from tip of snout to hind margin of pelvics. *Teeth* pointed in both sexes, the middle series with elongated tips; 58 (young) to 68 (adult) rows in upper jaw. *Upper surface* of disc entirely spinulose. Usually a complete row of inner orbital spines, those in the middle of the series being reduced in size in older fish. A median series of three to nine nuchal spines. Lateral shoulder spines present in young but absent in adults. No median spines on body and on tail in adults, but present in young. A row of spines on each side of the tail, extending to the shoulder in young but disappearing on the body in adults, closely packed near the middle length of the tail. Males with two rows of alar spines and a patch of malar spines. Dorsals close set or separated by a short space. Colour uniform grey to fawny brown (formalin). *Lower surface* with large bare patches on middle and posterior regions of disc and pelvics. Snout strongly spinulose: a narrow border of asperities extending half way to the outer angle. Colour white. *Egg capsule* biconvex. Shell smooth, amber coloured at extrusion and almost transparent. A delicate film of fine threads attached longitudinally along the side margins. No lateral keel. Capsule hardly distinguishable from that of *R. circularis*. Length (without horns) 88-89 mm. and greatest breadth 46-47 mm. Identification secured from two capsules taken from a female fish 660 mm. in width of disc caught off the Faroes in July 1927 at a depth of 90 fathoms.

**DISTRIBUTION** — A species frequenting moderate to deep water, 20 to 300 fathoms. European coasts from Madeira to Iceland and Murman coast. Iceland; Faroes; Faroe Bank; Lousy Bank; Shetlands; all Scottish coasts; northern North Sea; Norway-Finmark to Skagerak; Murman coast (*Berg*); Bohuslan (*Malm*); S. and W. coasts of Ireland; Irish Sea; English Channel-western end; Mediterranean (*Bonaparte, Faber*); Portuguese Coast; Madeira (*Günther*).

**COMMON NAMES** — British, Shagreen Ray or Skate; Danish, Gjoggerokken; French, Raie chardon; German, Chagrinroche; Norwegian, Naeb skate; Swedish, Gokrocka.

**SYNONYMY** — *R. chagrinea* Montagu 1815. *Dasybatis fullonica* Bonaparte 1832-41. *Leucoraja fullonica* Malm 1877.

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R. S. CLARK 1930.