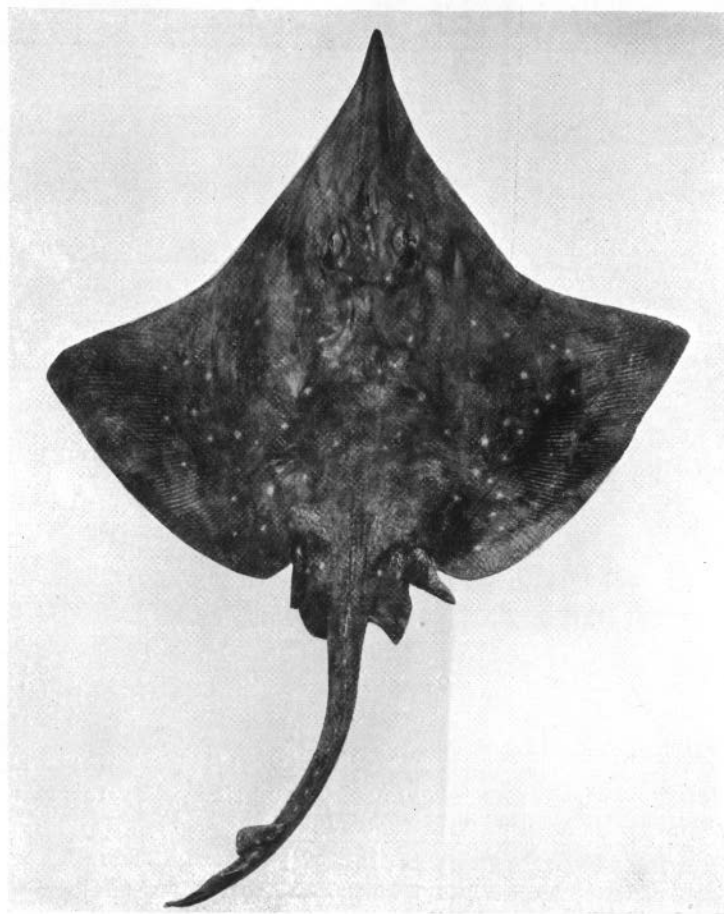


SELACHII
Hypotremata Raïdæ

Raia oxyrhynchus

LINNAEUS 1758

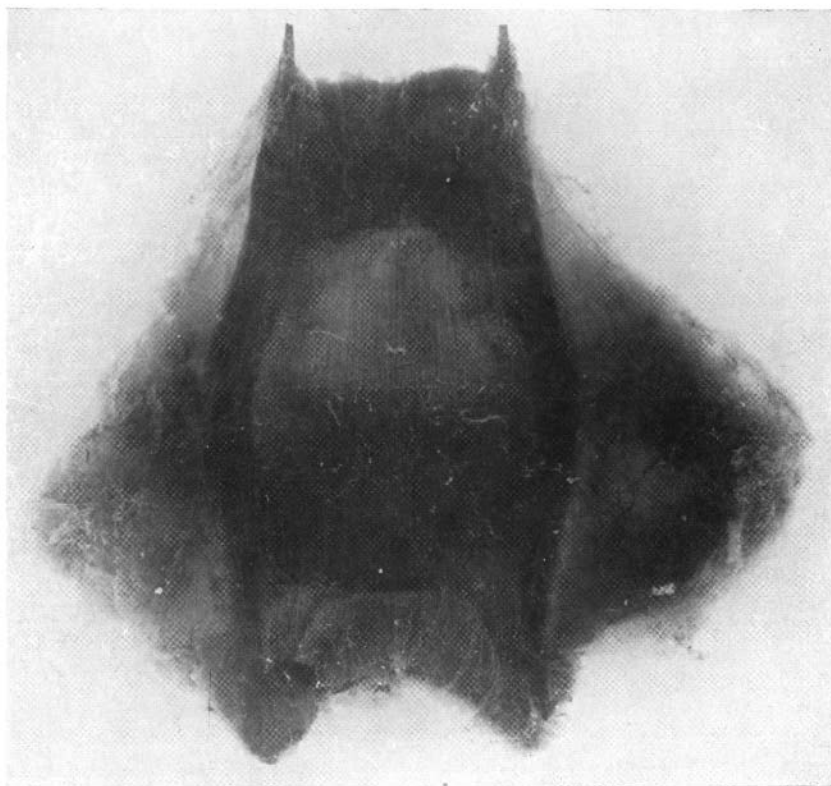


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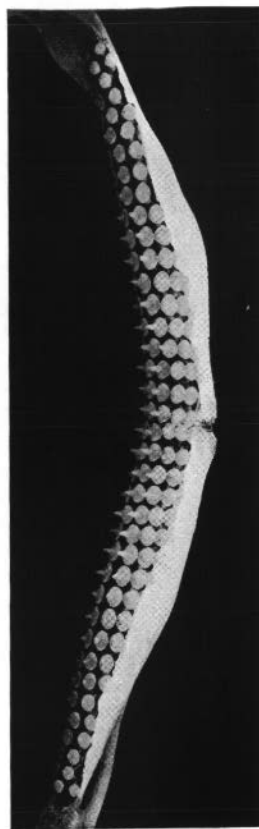
EXPLANATION OF FIGURES

1. Adult female from Rockall. Width of disc 898 mm.
2. Egg capsule. Length (without horns) 133 mm. Width (greatest) 80 mm.
3. Teeth of adult female.

DIAGNOSIS — Maximal observed length 1500 mm. and width about 1000 mm. *Disc*: length 51 to 61 per cent. and width 65 to 69 per cent. in total length of fish; anterior margin concave or slightly undulated. *Snout* long and acutely pointed, its length 2.6 to 3.1 in width of disc and 5 to 6 (adult) 6.5 to 7.3 (young) times the interorbital width. *Praeoral* length about 3 times the internasal width. *Teeth*: middle series pointed in both sexes, outer series flat, rounded and pointless: 34 to 42 rows in upper jaw. *Upper surface* smooth (young), more or less spinulose (adult). A preorbital spine in young, usually wanting in adults. No other spines on the body. Tail with a median row of 8 spines (young) which may be present or worn off in adults. Lateral tail series usually absent in young, present in adults. These spines, few in males but many in females, straight, antrorse or retrorse, long, and



2



3

sharp-pointed. *Lower surface* more or less spinulose. Præoral area and anterior margin of disc with strong spinulae. Colour slatey-grey to brownish-black with the terminal ends of the tubules as black dots or streaks. *Egg capsule* biconvex. Shell enveloped in a closely-felted covering of yellowish fibres. Free ends of the horns short. Range in length (without horns) 128 to 133 mm. and in width 74 to 101 mm. Ripe females observed in September (Jones Bank and Rockall): February to April (Naples).

DISTRIBUTION — Moderate to deep water; 48 (young stages) to 914 metres (adults); maximal frequency 128 to 274 metres. Moroccan coast to Faroes and Norway; Mediterranean; S. and W. coasts of Ireland; English Channel (west); W. and N. coasts of Scotland; Northern North Sea; Norwegian coast to Skagerak.

COMMON NAMES — British, Long-nosed Skate; French, Raie capucin; German, Spitzchnauziger Roche; Norwegian, Plogskate; Swedish, Plogjersrocka.

SYNONYMY — *R. vomer* Fries 1838. *Laeviraja oxydhynchus* Bonaparte 1832-41.

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R. S. CLARK 1930