Raia polystigma
REGAN 1923

1. Adult male from Naples. Width of disc 340 mm.

DIAGNOSIS — Maturity is reached at an approximate total length of 50 cm. Disc width greater than length; its width 60 to 66 per cent. and length a little more than 50 per cent. in total length of fish; anterior margin undulated; outer angle obtuse and rounded. Snout projects as a short rounded or obtusely pointed process; its length 5 (young) to ca. 6 (adult males) times in width of disc and 2.3 to 3 times the interorbital width which is slightly greater than the longitudinal diameter of the eye and less than the combined length of eye and spiracle. Teeth: close set and acutely pointed (males), 50 to 60 rows in upper jaw. Upper surface in adults more or less smooth, except for spinulæ along the median ridge of the body, on orbital and rostral ridges and on tip of snout. Mature males with 2 rows of alar spines and a patch of malar spines. Tail with a median series of 22 to 28 spines to the first dorsal and occasionally a spine between the dorsals. Young stages with a row of spines along the median ridge of the body and tail and with a pair of scapular spines. Colour fawn to brown with numerous dark dots and a few
light spots on the disc, pelvics and tail. An ocellus on each wing with a dark centre, encircled by a black ring within two light coloured rings. Lower surface smooth except for spinulae on the praenosal area and on the anterior margin of the disc half way to the outer angle. Colour white. Egg capsule and early young stages not known.

**DISTRIBUTION** — Mediterranean.

**SYNONYMY**

R. batis (non. L.) Bonaparte in "Fauna Italia, Pesca". Fasc. XXIX, Pl. LXXVII, fig. 1.

**LITERATURE**


R. S. Clark 1931.