

Raja plutonia.

Raja plutonia, Garman, Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool., vol. viii. No. 11, 1881, p. 236.

"Disk, including ventrals, broader than long, subquadrangular, broadly rounded in front and on the lateral angles; snout forming a very blunt angle; margin opposite the gill-openings nearly straight. Tail about one and one-half times the length of the disk, slender, depressed, with a cutaneous fold on each side near the extremity. Rostral cartilage short, not extending to the end of the snout. Mouth moderate, slightly curved, width equalling the distance between the outer angles of the nostrils, and contained twice in its distance from the end of the snout. Teeth about thirty-two series (a young specimen). Eyes large, longitudinal diameter of orbit greater than their distance apart. Interorbital space concave, narrow; width rather more than two and one-half times in the distance of the eyes from the end of the snout. Spiracles small. Anterior nasal valve tubular; posterior reaching the mouth, free on its outer margin. Hinder extremity of pectoral broad, rounded. Ventrals deeply notched, anterior portion narrow, extending farther from the middle of the pelvis than the posterior.

"Back and tail covered with small, closely set, stellate-based scales, which bear elongate, slender, compressed, backward directed points. Larger spines form a supra-orbital row, and a single one stands on each side of the back of the head. The largest on the body form a close vertebral series on back and tail. On each side of the shoulder girdle there is an irregular series of five, and a short distance in front of each of these stands one or a pair. On each side of the tail there are two series, little smaller than those of the medial row. Smooth below. Very small specimens have not so many spines.

"Brown, grayish in small to purplish in the largest specimens at hand, with more or less irregular transverse series of distinctly defined spots of brown, often confluent into short bands, interspersed among which are spots of white of varying size and shapes. Tail with cross bands of light and of dark. Dorsals dark. Entire lower surface white."

This species was obtained during the cruise of the U.S. steamer "Blake," in from 229 to 333 fathoms, off the coast of Florida, in lat. 32° N., long. 78°.

Another deep-sea Ray from the North American coast of the Atlantic has been noticed by Goode and Bean¹ under the name of *Raja granulata* in the following terms: "A remarkable species with the back and ventral surface covered with minute sharp granular ossifications. Of the same type as *Raja laevis* (?), and having 30-31 teeth on each side; the back granulated and slate-coloured; the ventrals distinguished by reticulate markings and the claspers slender and scarcely expanded." Obtained on the Le Have Bank.

¹ Bull. Essex Inst., vol. xi., 1879, p. 28.