

Jersey Strandline Finds

The following objects have all been found within the last year on the strand line around Jersey's coast. The strandline is usually marked by a line of loose seaweed that is stranded along the high tide mark of the beach although they can occur lower down the beach too.

The eggcases are among more than 1,500 that have been collected by members of Sea Shepherd who have been gathering them while cleaning litter from our beaches.

As well as providing the Section with valuable records, all their finds are being passed on to the Shark Trust to form part of their Great Eggcase Hunt project. See www.sharktrust.org/en/great_eggcase_hunt for more details and for more information on identification.

Ray and Shark Eggcases

If any Section members want to help with this project then could they collect any eggcases and make a note of where each one was found and the date. We need to see the actual specimens in order to validate a records (plus firm identification can only be made after soaking them in water for 24 hours) so please either hand them in to the Société Jersiaise at 7 Pier Road or e-mail marinebiology@societe-jersiaise.org and we'll arrange to collect them.

Please do not give us whelk eggballs or cuttlebones (with the exception of *S. elegans*, see below). However, if you want to send us records of the species you see, then that would be most welcome (with a location and date, please). Use the e-mail above.



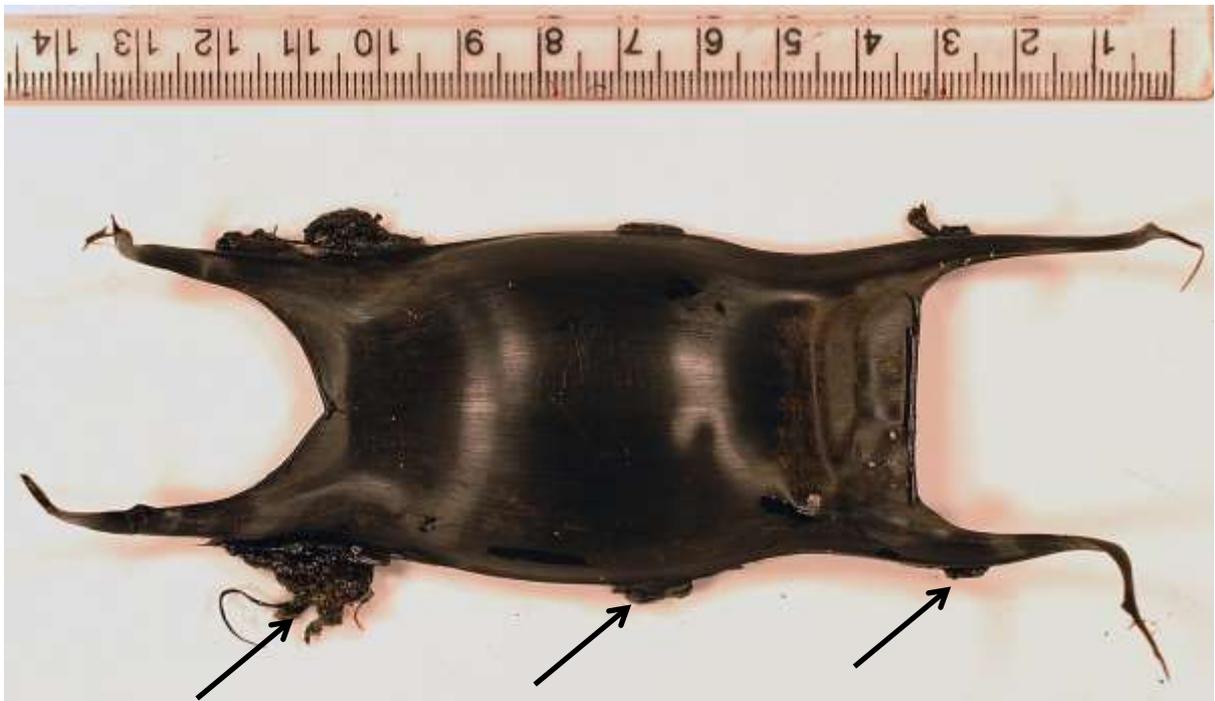
Lesser Spotted Dogfish - goblet-shaped and smooth. Small, <7cm long. May occur in a bunch of several intertwined individuals. Common.



Nursehound - goblet-shaped, tough and >10cm long. Much larger than the lesser dogfish eggcase often with ridges down the side (arrowed). Rare.



Blonde Ray - Long and wide with long horns. The largest egg case commonly found around Jersey. Very common.



Undulate Ray Smaller than blond ray with three attachment points on each side (arrowed). Central part of case >6cm with rough edges. Very common.



Small-eyed Ray - Has just one set of long, twisty horns. Not uncommon.



Thornback Ray - A square outline with short horns and wide margins. Not uncommon.

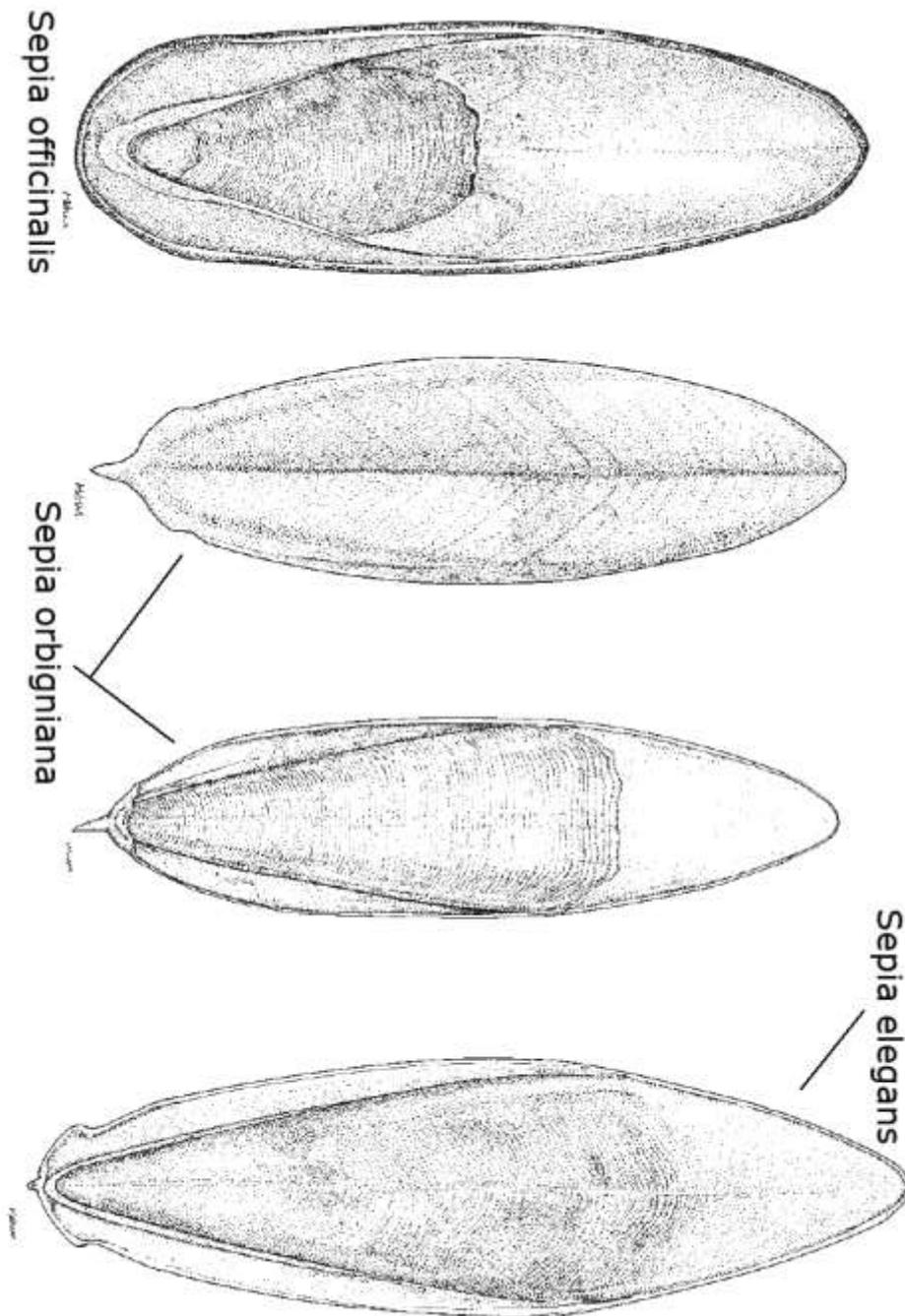


Cuttlefish (Seiche); *Sepia officinalis* - the largest and commonest cuttlebone. Very common.



Cuttlefish (Seiche rose); *Sepia orbigniana* - Small (<11cm). Easily distinguished by the long spine. Not uncommon.

There is a third species (*Sepia elegans* or Seiche élégante) for which I have no cuttlebone specimens. This cuttlebone is small (<10cm), lozenge-shaped but with only a small spine. It is illustrated below. Please keep your eyes open!





Whelk eggball (*Buccinum undatum*). Can be found all year round but are particularly common in late winter/early spring. Very common.