Generic Character.

Habitus Squali.  | Habit that of a Shark.
Spiraculum utrinque unicum ad latera colli, operculum magno tectum.  | Spiracles single on each side the neck, concealed by a large gill-cover.
Rosstrum productum, spatulatum.  | Snout produced, spatulate-shaped.
Os sub capite, amplement, dentibus acutis serratis.  | Mouth beneath the head, large, and furnished with sharp, serrated teeth.

Reticulated Spatularia.

Spatularia Reticulata.  S. rostro reticulato.
Spatularia with reticulated snout.
Polyodon feuille.  Cepede.
Chien de mer feuille.  Bonaterre encyclop. methodique.

This remarkable fish, the only species hitherto discovered, is greatly allied to the Sharks in its general appearance, and more particularly to those constituting the Saw-Fish tribe; but differs essentially from the genus Squalus in having only a single spiracle on each side the neck: this spiracle is very large, and covered by a large, soft and pointed operculum, which, on being raised, exhibits the gills consisting of five cartilaginous laminæ with
fringed edges, as in the generality of fishes: the body is moderately slender, subcylindric, and tapering towards the tail: the head is terminated by a very long, flat, and thin snout, nearly equalling the length of the whole remainder of the animal: it is perfectly even on the edges, gradually dilated towards the tip, and of a form not ill resembling that of a spatula: the upper surface of this part is divided by a longitudinal midrib or carina, while the space on each side is marked with numerous, slightly prominent lines or fibres, forming a kind of reticular and somewhat stellated pattern: the eyes are rather small: the mouth wide, placed beneath the head, and furnished in the upper jaw with a double, and in the lower with a single row of sharp, curved, and serrated teeth: the skin on the whole body, so far as can be judged from small specimens preserved in spirits, is smooth, and destitute of visible scales: the colour is uncertain, but the gill-covers appear marked with numerous spots of a paler cast than the rest of the skin: the lateral line is strongly marked, and runs in a strait direction from the gills to the tail, which is large and strongly lunate: the dorsal fin is single, of moderate size, of a somewhat falcated shape, and placed rather beyond the middle of the back: the pectoral and ventral rather small, and the anal large. The internal parts of this fish, according to the Count de Cepede, who professes to have examined a young specimen, exhibit nothing very remarkable, except a pretty large air-bladder, which proves this genus to be in reality more nearly allied
to the Sturgeons than to the Sharks. The particular history of the animal is at present unknown, and we are even unacquainted with its usual residence: it is probable however that it is found in the Indian seas: the size of the young specimens observed by Cepede scarce exceeded the length of a foot, the snout alone measuring nearly half: in the British Museum is a specimen of this part measuring about fifteen inches in length, and it is probable that the fish, at its full growth, is of very considerable size.