CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Ornate bichir

Polypterus ornatipinnis

The ornate bichir is a striking, primitive freshwater fish native to central and eastern Africa. Recognizable by its elongated body, thick armor-like scales, and dramatic black-and-yellow patterning,…

Quick facts

Classification: Fish
Family: Polypteridae
Habitat: Freshwater rivers, lakes, and floodplains
Diet: Carnivore
Conservation status: Least Concern
Lifespan: 15–20 years
Weight: 1–2 kg
Scientific name: Polypterus ornatipinnis

Did you know?

- The ornate bichir can survive out of water for hours, as long as its skin stays moist.
- Ornate bichirs can walk short distances on land using their strong pectoral fins. They are sometimes called 'living fossils' because their lineage da…

What I learned

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