

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
