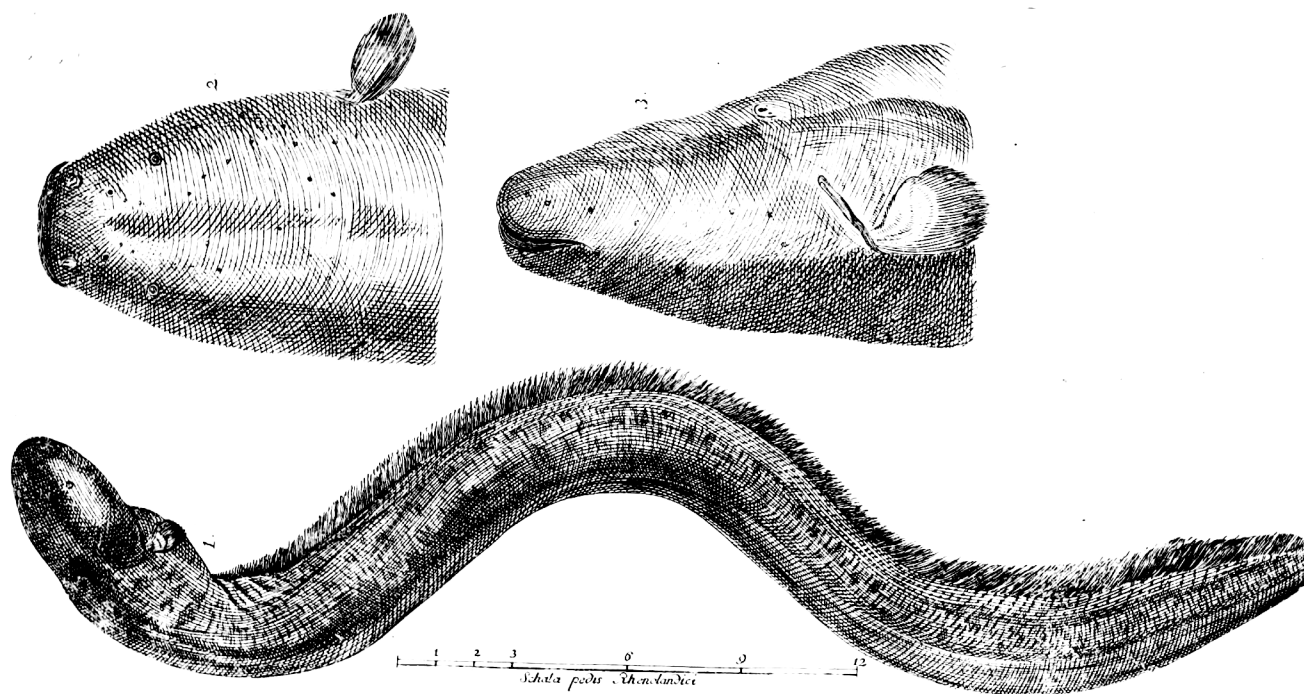


Order GYMNOTIFORMES

Electric Eels

Family **ELECTROPHORIDAE**

Gill 1872



Probably first-published image of *Electrophorus electricus*. From: Gronow, L. T., 1758. Brief van D. Laurens Theodorus Gronovius aan C. N. over nieuw-ontdekte zeediertjes en byzonderheden van den siddervis of beef-aal (uit het Latyn vertaald). Uitgezogte verhandelingen uit de nieuwste werken van de societeten der wetenschappen in Europa en van andere geleerde mannen 3: 464–478 + foldout plate.

Electrophorus

Gill 1864

electro-, combining form of *electricus*, Neo-Latin for “of amber” (see *E. electricus*); *phorus*, from *phoreús* (φορεύς), bearer or carrier, referring to its ability to generate a powerful electric shock (may also allude to an 18th-century manual capacitive generator of the same name)

***Electrophorus electricus* (Linnaeus 1766)** Neo-Latin for “of amber,” referring to amber’s attractive properties, later applied to objects capable of attracting “light bodies” (e.g., bits of paper) when excited by friction, and then applied even later to the cause (electricity) rather than the property of the attraction, referring to this fish’s ability to generate a powerful electric shock

***Electrophorus multivalvulus* Nakashima 1941** *multi-* (L.), many; *valvulus* (L.), having folding doors, referring to a series of irregular lichen-like skin folds inside the mouth; Nakashima guessed that their function was related to the generation of electricity, but they actually serve as lungs, allowing electric eels to absorb oxygen from atmospheric air [sometimes misspelled as *multivalvulatus*]

***Electrophorus varii* de Santana, Wosiacki, Crampton, Sabaj, Dillman, Mendes-Júnior & Castro e Castro 2019** in honor of Richard P. Vari (1949–2016), National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution (Washington, D.C., USA), for his contributions to ichthyology [possibly a junior synonym of *E. multivalvulus*]

***Electrophorus voltai* de Santana, Wosiacki, Crampton, Sabaj, Dillman, Castro e Castro, Bastos & Vari 2019** in honor of Alessandro Giuseppe Antonio Anastasio Volta (1745–1827), inventor of electric battery and for whom the “volt” is named (with a discharge of 860 V, this species is the strongest living bioelectricity generator known)