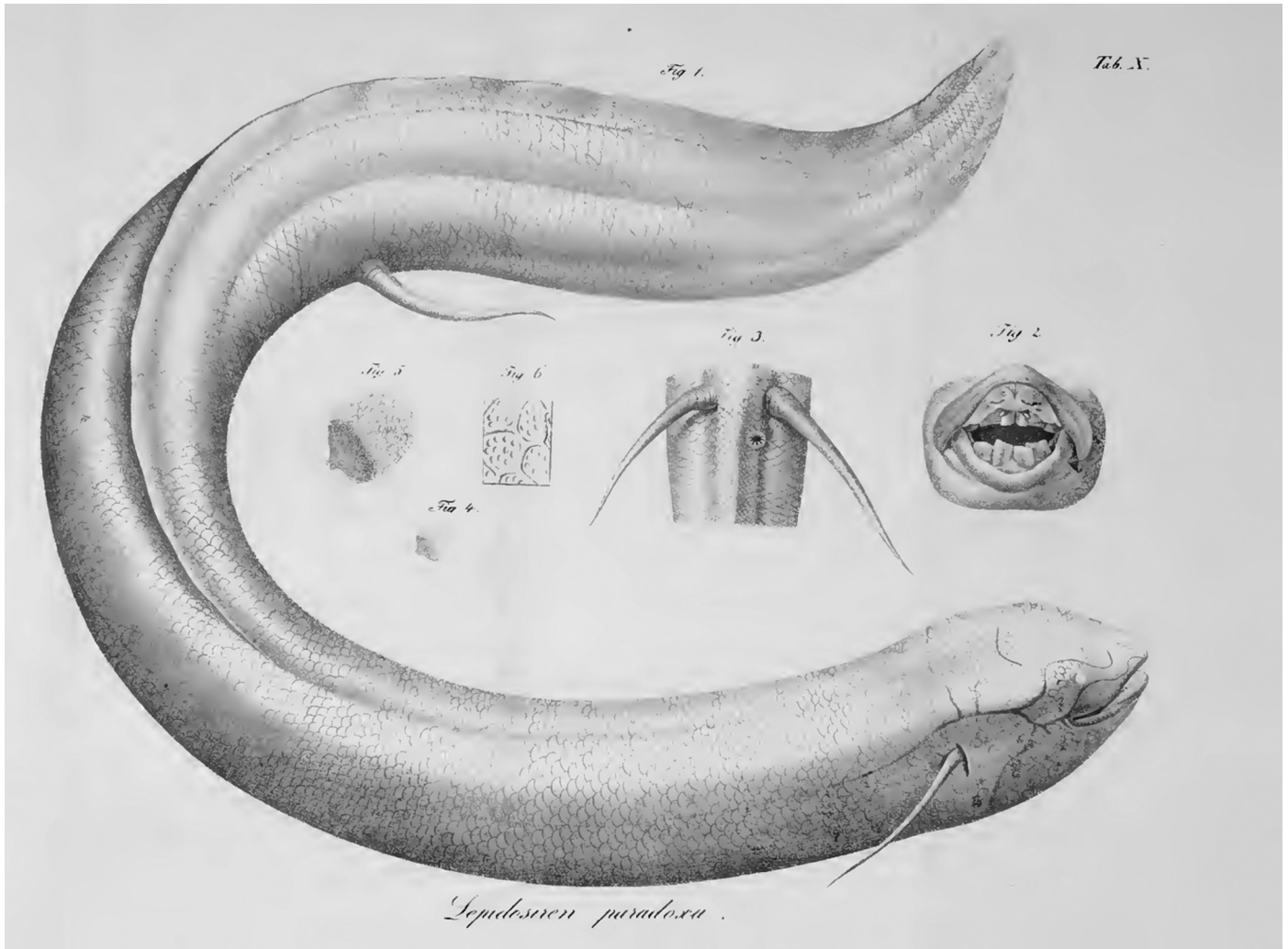


Order CERATODONTIFORMES

South American Lungfish

## Family LEPIDOSIRENIDAE

Bonaparte 1841



First-published image of *Lepidosiren paradoxa*. From: Natterer, J. 1839. *Lepidosiren paradoxa* eine neue Gattung aus der Familie der fischähnlichen Reptilien. *Annalen des Wiener Museums der Naturgeschichte* 2: 165–170, Pl. 10. [Explorer Johann Natterer collected the first South American lungfish, which herpetologist Leopold Fitzinger named in 1837.]

### **Lepidosiren**

**Fitzinger 1837**

*lepidos* (Gr. λεπίδος), genitive of *lepis* (λεπίς), scale; *Siren* Linnaeus 1766, a genus of aquatic salamanders named for monsters of classical mythology, part woman, part bird, who lured sailors to destruction by their enchanted singing, reflecting a comment from an early naturalist that these salamanders possessed a kind of singing voice; Fitzinger considered the lungfish a reptile (which at the time included amphibians) intermediate between the salamander genus *Amphiuma* and the eel genus *Muraena*, but with scales

***Lepidosiren paradoxa* Fitzinger 1837** Latin for strange or contrary to expectation, referring to the seeming paradox of an eel-like salamander covered with scales yet resembling a fish