Order CERATODONTIFORMES

South American Lungfish

Family LEPIDOSIRENIDAE

Bonaparte 1841

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**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