Order LEPISOSTEIFORMES

Gars

Family LEPISOSTEIDAE

Agassiz 1832

Atractosteus

Rafinesque 1820

*atraktos* (Gr.), spindle; *osteus* (Gr.), bony, referring to cylindrical body covered with heavy bone-like (ganoid) scales

*Atractosteus spatula* (Lacepède 1803) Latin for a paddle, spoon or broad blade used for stirring, derived from the Greek *spathe*, referring to the spatula-like shape of its snout

*Atractosteus tristoechus* (Bloch & Schneider 1801) *tri*-(L.), three; *stoechus*, from *stoichos* (Gr.), rows, referring to three rows of teeth on lower jaw

*Atractosteus tropicus* Gill 1863 Latin for tropical, referring to its distribution in Middle America

Lepisosteus

Lacepède 1803

*lepis* (Gr.), scale; *osteus* (Gr.), bony, referring to bone-like (ganoid) scales

*Lepisosteus oculatus* Winchell 1864 Latin for eyed, referring to eye-like spots on body

*Lepisosteus osseus* (Linnaeus 1758) Latin for bone or bony, referring to bone-like (ganoid) scales on head and body

*Lepisosteus platostomus* Rafinesque 1820 *plato*-, alternate spelling of *platys* (Gr.), possibly influenced by the Old French *plote*, flat; *stomus*, from *stoma* (Gr.), mouth, referring to its long, flattened jaws

*Lepisosteus platyrhincus* DeKay 1842 *platys* (Gr.), flat or broad; *rhincus*, from *rhynchus* (L.), snout, referring to broad and flattened upper jaw