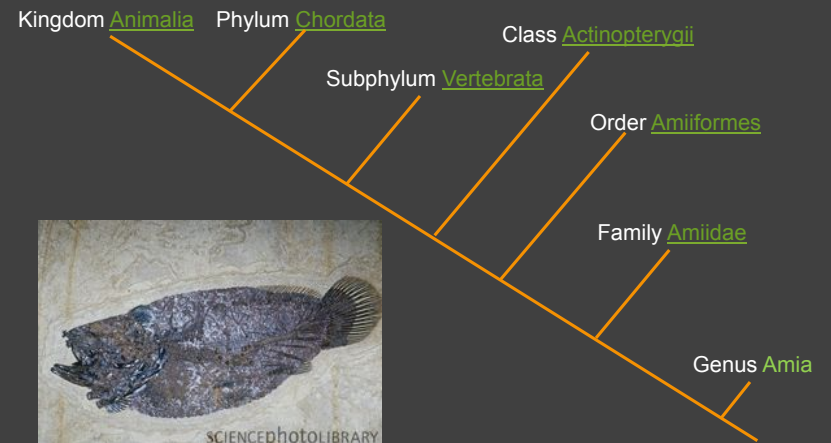


BOWFIN *AMIA CALVA*



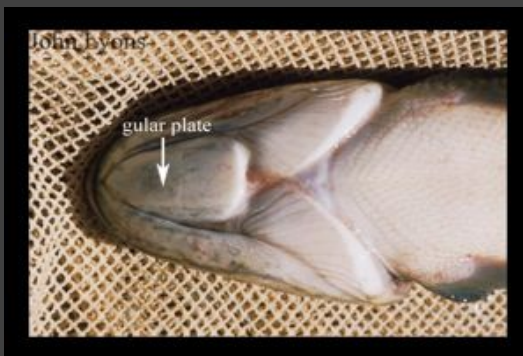
Brian Marshall

Taxonomy



Keys to Identification

- Below its mouth is a gular plate



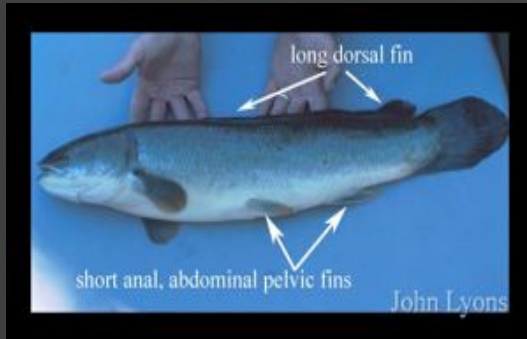
Keys to Identification

- The Bowfin has a heterocercal tail
- An ocellus on upper part of tail



Keys to Identification

- Short anal and abdominal fins



Keys to Identification

- Enlarged dorsal fin to caudal fin



Similar Species

- As juveniles the bowfin is similar to the central mud minnow
- Bowfin with longer dorsal fin
- Heterocercal tail
- Faint ocellus on bowfin



Similar Species



	Snakehead	Bowfin
Anal Fin	Very long, 18 rays, more than half the length of the dorsal fin	Short, 12 rays, less than half the length of the dorsal fin
Head	Pointed and flattened dorsally	Large and rounded
Jaw	Lower jaw protrudes past upper jaw with pointed teeth	Lower jaw is shorter than upper



Snakehead illustration by Susan Trammel, utgs.gov, Bowfin illustration by Duane Reiver

Methods of Movement

- Undulation of median and/or pectoral fins
- Amiiiform swimming

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r3R0c5n7ZBo&feature=player_detailpage

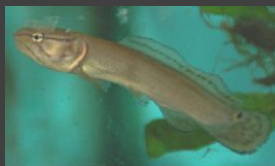
Biology

- Found in swampy, vegetated lakes and rivers
- Normally uses gills for breathing
- Air-breathers and can live in high temperatures which enables it to survive in stagnant water



Reproduction

- Somewhat migratory during spawning season
- Eggs are adhesive and attached plant matter around the nest
- The young stay attached to plants until adhesive organ is absorbed
- Guarded by male parent outside nest



Body

- In first year grow 8in
- As adults range in size from 15in to 28in
- Largest record Bowfin was 36in
- They have a:
 - Elongate body shape
 - Stout in width and height giving them an ovular shaped cross-section



Food Resources

- Opportunist feeder and aggressive feeder
- Eats fishes including some sport fishes, frogs, crayfish, insects, and shrimps
- It uses scent as much as sight to capture prey



Distribution

- From the East side of the Dakota's
- South down to parts of Texas and east to Florida
- East as far as the Maine boarder
- Has been introduced into some watersheds



Questions



References

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