

**ELECTRIC EELS CAN
EMIT ELECTRIC SHOCKS
OF UP TO 860 VOLTS.**

**UP TO
44
POUNDS**

**UP TO
8
FEET**

They can weigh up to 44 pounds (20 kilograms).

They can measure up to 8 feet (2.4 meters) in length.



HABITAT

Calm waters—they prefer muddy beds, streams, rivers, and swampy areas.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION



They can be found in the northern regions of South America, the Orinoco River basin, the Amazon River basin, and their adjacent rivers.

**THEY ARE THE MOST POWERFUL
BIOELECTRIC BEING ON THE PLANET.**

ELECTRIC EEL
IT SHOCKS ITS PREY

10

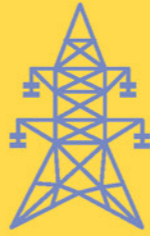
TO A GROUP

They hunt in groups of up to 10.



They have 3 organs that produce electric shocks of different intensity:

- MAIN ORGAN
- HUNTER'S ORGAN
- SACHS'S ORGAN



**THEY USE
THE DARK
OF NIGHT
TO HUNT.**



**OVER
20
YEARS**

LIFE EXPECTANCY

Only known in captivity: females can live for over 20 years, males up to 15 years.



Their eyes are small and they have poor vision, but they have a keen sense of smell.

They use their tail fin to move.



They coil around their prey to double the power of the shock, bringing the two poles of their electric organ together.



They corner fish and deliver brief, high-voltage shocks as a team. Once their prey is immobilized, they devour it.



They can generate up to 8 high-voltage shocks within 2-3 milliseconds—up to 150 in one hour!

Their bodies house more than 6,000 specialized cells called **electrocytes**, which are able to store energy.



They feed on fish, small mammals, and birds.



The color of their skin varies between gray and dark brown on the back and yellow or orange on the belly.



Their skin is oily, sticky, and has no scales.



They have a flat head and a large mouth, with a row of cone-shaped teeth in the lower jaw.



Like all fish, they have the ability to regulate their body temperature in response to the water.

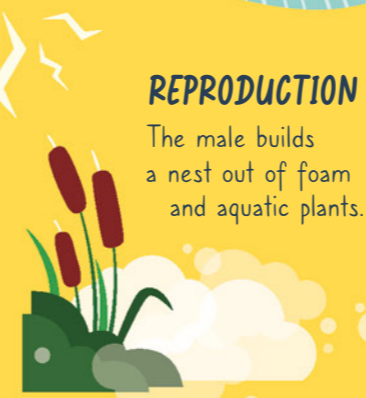


They are an electric fish that resemble a snake, and there are 3 known species.



REPRODUCTION

The male builds a nest out of foam and aquatic plants.



The female lays **17,000 EGGS.**

Up to 3,000 young are born each time.

THEY CAN REACH A SPEED OF 5 MILES PER HOUR (8 KILOMETERS PER HOUR).

Newly born eels eat small invertebrates.

ANAL FIN

They have an elongated anal fin that extends to the tip of their tail.

Taxonomy

Phylum: **chordata**
Class: **actinopterygii**
Order: **gymnotiformes**



Scientific Name
Electrophorus electricus



Diet
Carnivorous



Living Environment
Water



Conservation Status
Least concern

