



**Accession Number: - ZOO144**

**Scientific Name: -*Polypterus senegalus***

**Family: Polypteridae**

**Common Name: Bichirs or dinosaur eels**

**Physical Characteristics:**

Bichirs have a distinctive appearance, characterised by elongated bodies with rows of bony plates called ganoid scales, which give them a prehistoric or "dinosaur-like" appearance. They have elongated dorsal fins that run along their backs and pectoral fins that resemble limbs, giving them a somewhat primitive appearance.

**Geographical Distribution:**

Western and Central Africa, Eastern Africa, Southern Africa

**Economic Importance:**

They are popular in the aquarium hobby due to their striking appearance and interesting behaviour, although they are not significantly crucial in commercial fisheries. Their distinctive adaptations and behaviours make them subjects of scientific interest and popular choices for dedicated aquarists. Ensuring their conservation in the wild is crucial for maintaining the biodiversity and ecological integrity of their native habitats.

