

DUCK-BILLED PLATYPUS

This is another very strange creature! It's the Duck-Billed Platypus. They are an egg-laying mammal called a "Monotremes." Ordinarily, mammals do not lay eggs. This makes them special. Mammals are usually not venomous. However, the male platypus is! He has stingers his back heels. This makes them super special. They lived 122 million years ago. Today the Platypus lives in eastern Australia and Tasmania.

Their bodies are covered with a thick brown fur which keeps them warm and is waterproof. They swim and hunt in freshwater not saltwater. They are known to burrow in the banks of rivers, creeks, and ponds. They are most active in the evening hours. They can stay underwater for about 2 minutes. They close their eyes when swimming and can tell where to go by a sonar-like system which transmits from their bills. They are very unusual.

