

Platypus facts



Platypus, *Ornithorhynchus anatinus*

The platypus is found only in Australia. It is a **monotreme** — a mammal that lays eggs. The only other living monotremes are echidnas, which are relatives of the platypus, although fossils tell us platypuses were found in South America millions of years ago.

Baby platypuses and echidnas are called 'puggles'. Female platypuses lay 1–2 eggs each litter, which hatch in September in Queensland.

Although puggles hatch from eggs, they still drink milk like all other mammals. Mother platypuses leak milk from special patches on the belly, which puggles suckle until they are old enough to fend for themselves at 6 months of age.



Did You Know?

- Male platypuses have a venomous spur on the back feet.
- Platypuses don't have any teeth. They crush up their food with bony plates in the bill.
- Their bills have electroreceptors that detect weak electrical currents created by prey when it swims underwater.
- Platypuses breathe air, so they must surface every few minutes.

Get involved with platypus conservation!

Join Wildlife Qld's PlatypusWatch Network, report sightings, and become a platypus protector by visiting the website below.

www.wildlife.org.au/PlatypusWatch