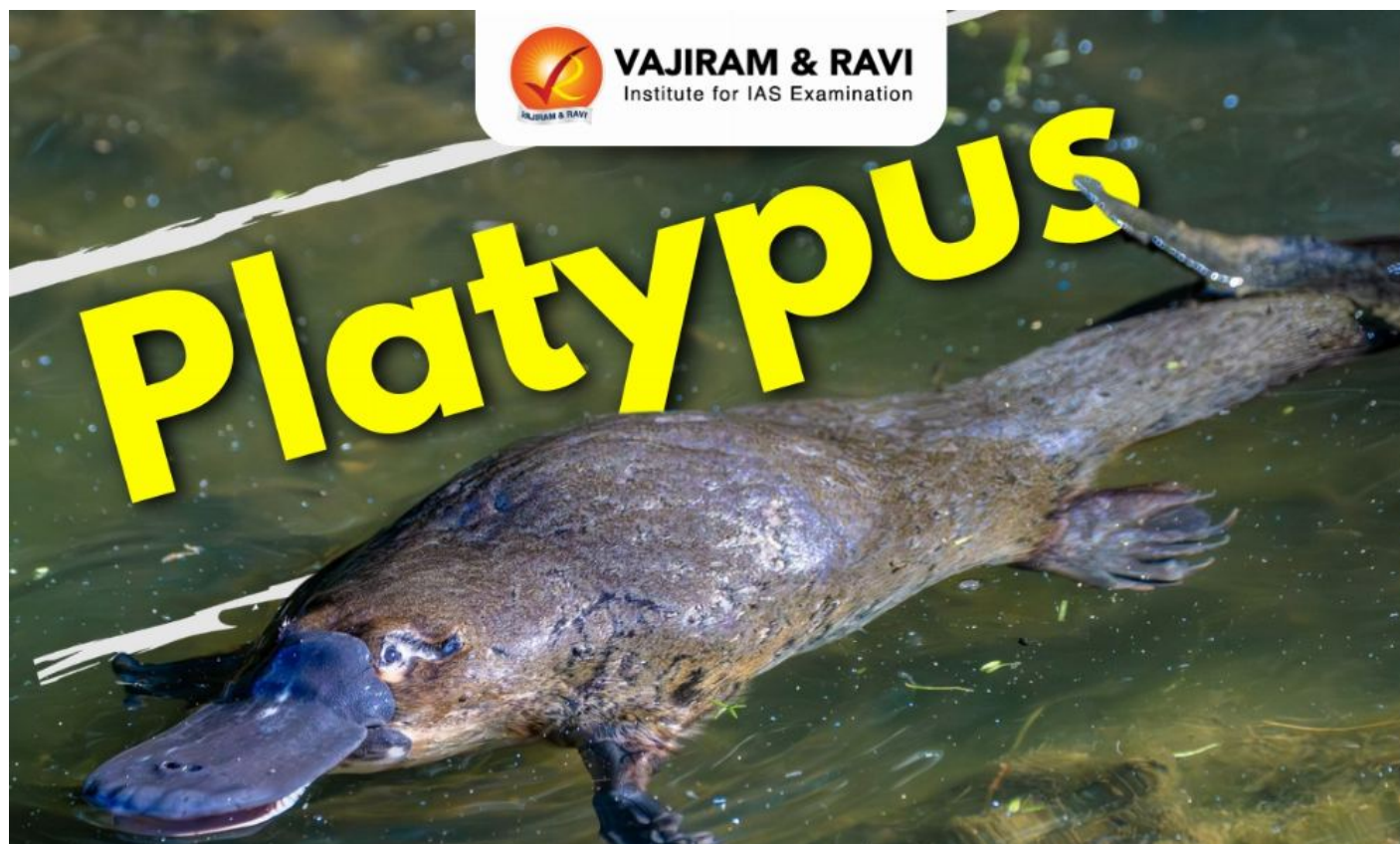


Platypus

April 30, 2026 • vajiramandravi.com



Platypus Latest News

New fossils from South Australia reveal a new species of ancient platypus that still had teeth – something modern platypuses lost long ago.

About Platypus

- The platypus is a **semi-aquatic egg-laying mammal endemic to eastern Australia**.
- Scientific Name: *Ornithorhynchus anatinus*

Platypus Habitat

- Platypuses occur in **freshwater systems from tropical rainforest lowlands and plateaus** of far northern Queensland **to cold, high altitudes of Tasmania** and the **Australian Alps**.
- When not foraging, the platypus spends most of the time in its burrow in the bank of the river, creek, or a pond.

Platypus Features

- The **duck-billed** platypus's head and body grow to about 38 centimeters and its tail grows to about 13 centimeters long.
- Platypus is well adapted for a semi-aquatic lifestyle.
- Its **streamline body** and a **broad, flat tail** are covered with **dense waterproof fur**, which **provides excellent thermal insulation**.
- The platypus propels itself through the water by using its **front, short, webbed limbs**, and the **partially webbed hind feet** act as rudders.
- It uses its **tail for storage of fat reserves** and the strong claws on its feet for burrowing and moving on land.
- In addition, **males possess** a horny spur on their ankles, which is connected to a **venom gland** in the upper leg, making the Platypus **one of the few venomous mammals**.

Platypus Conservation Status

It is classified as '**Near Threatened**' under the **IUCN Red List**.

Source: EAR

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/platypus/>

© Vajiram & Ravi. For personal use only.