

Researchers accidentally breed sturddlefish

July 21 2020, by Bob Yirka



Credit: *Genes*. DOI: 10.3390/genes11070753

A team of researchers working at Hungary's National Agricultural Research and Innovation Centre, Research Institute for Fisheries and Aquaculture, has accidentally bred a new kind of fish—dubbed the sturddlefish by some observers, it is a cross between an American Paddlefish and a Russian Sturgeon. In their paper published in the journal *Genes*, the group describes accidentally breeding the fish and

what they learned by doing so.

In the past, scientists and others have bred animals from different species for various reasons, from research to utility—mules (crossed between donkeys and horses) are considered to have beneficial traits from both animals, and ligers (a cross between lions and tigers) have helped researchers understand their respective genetic backgrounds. In this new effort, the researchers claim that they were not trying to create a new type of fish, they were instead attempting to apply gynogenesis (a type of reproduction in which sperm is used from one creature to fertilize an egg, but its DNA is ignored) using American paddlefish and Russian sturgeon. To their surprise, the eggs produced fish that grew to adults.

In studying the hundreds of offspring produced, which some on the internet have named sturdlefish, the researchers found that they fell into one of three main categories: those that looked mostly like their mothers, those that looked mostly like their fathers and those that inherited features of both parents.

Both of the parent [fish](#) are endangered, and they would not have had any chance of reproducing in the wild—as their names suggest, the paddlefish live in the U.S. and the sturgeon live in Russia. They are both considered to be "living fossils" by scientists because they have not changed very much over a very long period of time. The researchers note that it is believed their last common ancestor went as far back as 184 million years ago—when the dinosaurs were still roaming the Earth. They also note that the two [fish species](#) have more in common than many might think—they both have spiral valve intestines, for example, and scaleless skin and cartilaginous endoskeletons. The researchers also believe the offspring, like most crossbred offspring, are infertile.

More information: Jenő Káldy et al. Hybridization of Russian

Sturgeon (*Acipenser gueldenstaedtii*, Brandt and Ratzeberg, 1833) and American Paddlefish (*Polyodon spathula*, Walbaum 1792) and Evaluation of Their Progeny, *Genes* (2020). [DOI: 10.3390/genes11070753](https://doi.org/10.3390/genes11070753)

© 2020 Science X Network

Citation: Researchers accidentally breed sturddlefish (2020, July 21) retrieved 20 March 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2020-07-accidentally-sturddlefish.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.