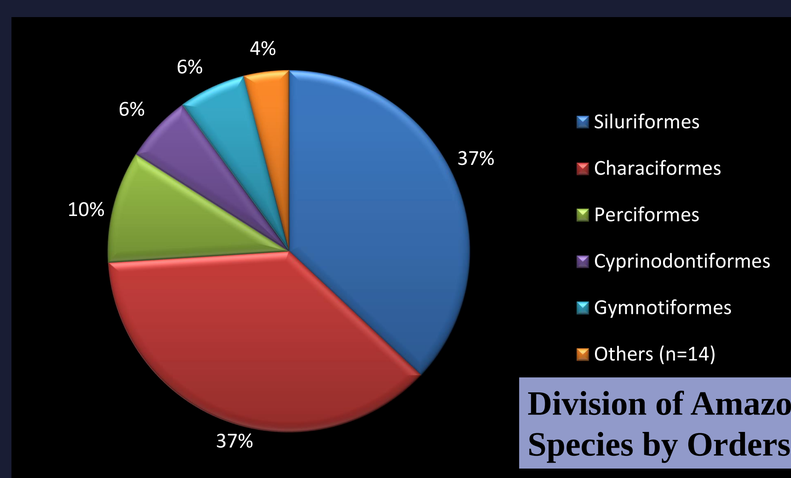
The Fish of the Amazon River Basin

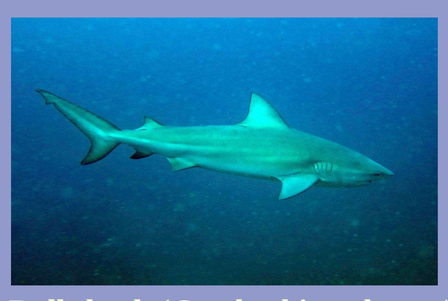
There is no equal to the diversity of the Amazon fish population in the world - over 5600 species have been found. However, it is believed that the number of fish species could reach over 9000. Represented are 19 orders, 63 families, and 564 genera. Most species (more than 80%) are grouped into three orders: catfish, characins, and Perciformes. 75 fish species have been described in Estonian waters.



Division of Amazon Fish Species by Orders

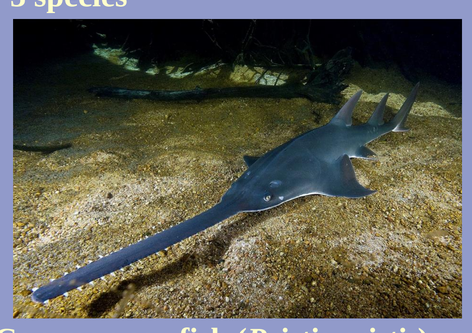
The latest major summary of the fish population in the Amazon River Basin (Sleen & Albert 2018) divides the fish species found there into the following orders:

Ground sharks (*Carcharhiniformes*) 1 species



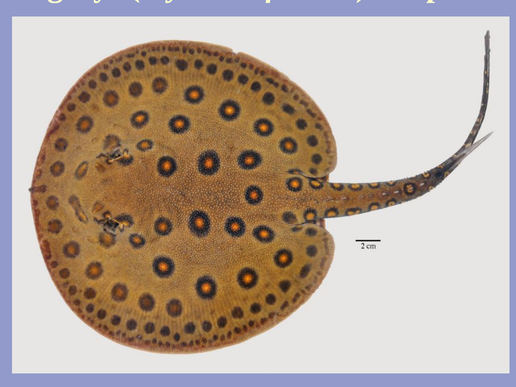
Bull shark (*Carcharhinus leucas*)

Shovelnose rays (*Rhinopristiformes*) 3 species



Common sawfish (*Pristis pristis*)

Stingrays (*Myliobatiformes*) 28 species



Ocellate river stingray (*Potamotrygon motoro*)

Lungfishes (*Lepidosireniformes*) 1 species

South American lungfish (*Lepidosiren paradoxa*)

Eels (*Anguilliformes*) 1 species

Freshwater eel (*Stictorhinus potamius*)

Bonytongues (*Osteoglossiformes*) 4 species

Black arowana (*Osteoglossum ferreirai*)

Herrings (*Clupeiformes*) 24 species

Yellowfin river pellona (*Pellona flavipinnis*)

Neotropical knifefish (*Gymnotiformes*) 178 species

Ossa knifefish (*Rhamphichthys heleios*)

Catfishes(*Siluriformes*) 1116 species

Vulture catfish (*Calophysus macropterus)*

Characids (*Characiformes*) 1102 species

Red-bellied piranha (*Serrasalmus nattereri*)

Perch-like fishes (*Perciformes*) 309 species

Speckled pavon (*Cichla temensis*)

Toothcarps (Cyprinodontiformes) 187 species

Trigonectes rubromarginatus

Gobies (*Gobiformes*) 15 species

Violet goby (*Gobioides broussonnetii*)

Toadfishes (*Batrachoidiformes*) 2 species

Prehistoric Monster Fish (*Thalassophryne amazonica*)

Needlefishes (*Beloniformes*) 9 species

Pseudotylosurus microps

Swamp eels (*Synbranchiformes*) 3 species

Marbled swamp eel (*Synbranchus marmoratus*)

Pufferfishes (*Tetraodontiformes*) 3 species

Amazon puffer (*Colomesus asellus*)

Pipefishes (*Syngnathiformes*) 3 species

Short-tailed pipefish (*Microphis brachyurus*)

Flatfishes (*Pleuronectiformes*) 11 species

Hypoclinemus mentalis

References

1. Van der Sleen, P., & Albert, J. S. (Eds.) (2018). Field guide to the fishesof the Amazon, Orinoco, and Guianas. Princeton University Press.
2. Albert, J.S.; Carvalho, T.P.; Petry, P.; Holder, M.A.; Maxime, E.L.; Espino, J.; Corahua, I.; Quispe, R.; Rengifo, B.; Ortega, H.; Reis, R.E. Aquatic Biodiversity in the Amazon: Habitat Specialization and Geographic Isolation Promote Species Richness. Animals 2011, 1, 205-241

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