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## Dear Duck-Billed Platypus

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## Dear Duck-Billed Platypus

### Abstract

This piece is a concrete poem that both shows and describes the platypus (*Ornithorhynchus anatinus*).

### Keywords

Zoology, platypus, Ornithorhynchidae, Australia, poetry, concrete poetry

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## Dear Duck-Billed Platypus

Michael Leach. School of Rural Health. Monash University, Australia

Your  
beaverish  
tail stores a  
healthy mass  
of fatty tissue  
—about 40%  
of the fat in  
your whole  
body. Your otter  
& your otter-like fur  
help you to swim and  
stay warm, respectively.

You are a chimera made  
flesh—an Aussie animal  
humans once thought to  
be a hybrid or a hoax.  
You are now known  
as a wonder of nature:  
the sole survivor of the  
*Ornithorhynchidae*  
family and 1 of 5  
monotremes.

Your duck  
-like bill is  
filled with  
receptors  
sensing  
prey.

-like webbed feet

-like webbed feet

-like webbed feet