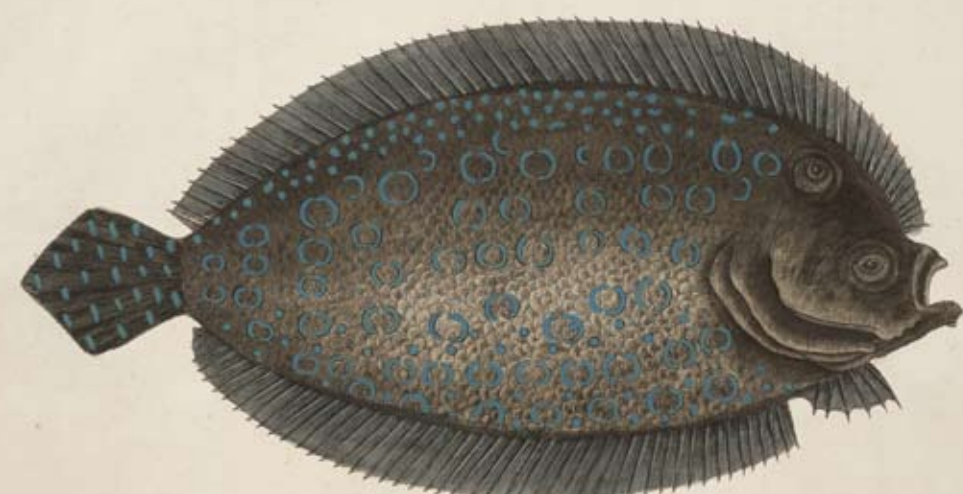
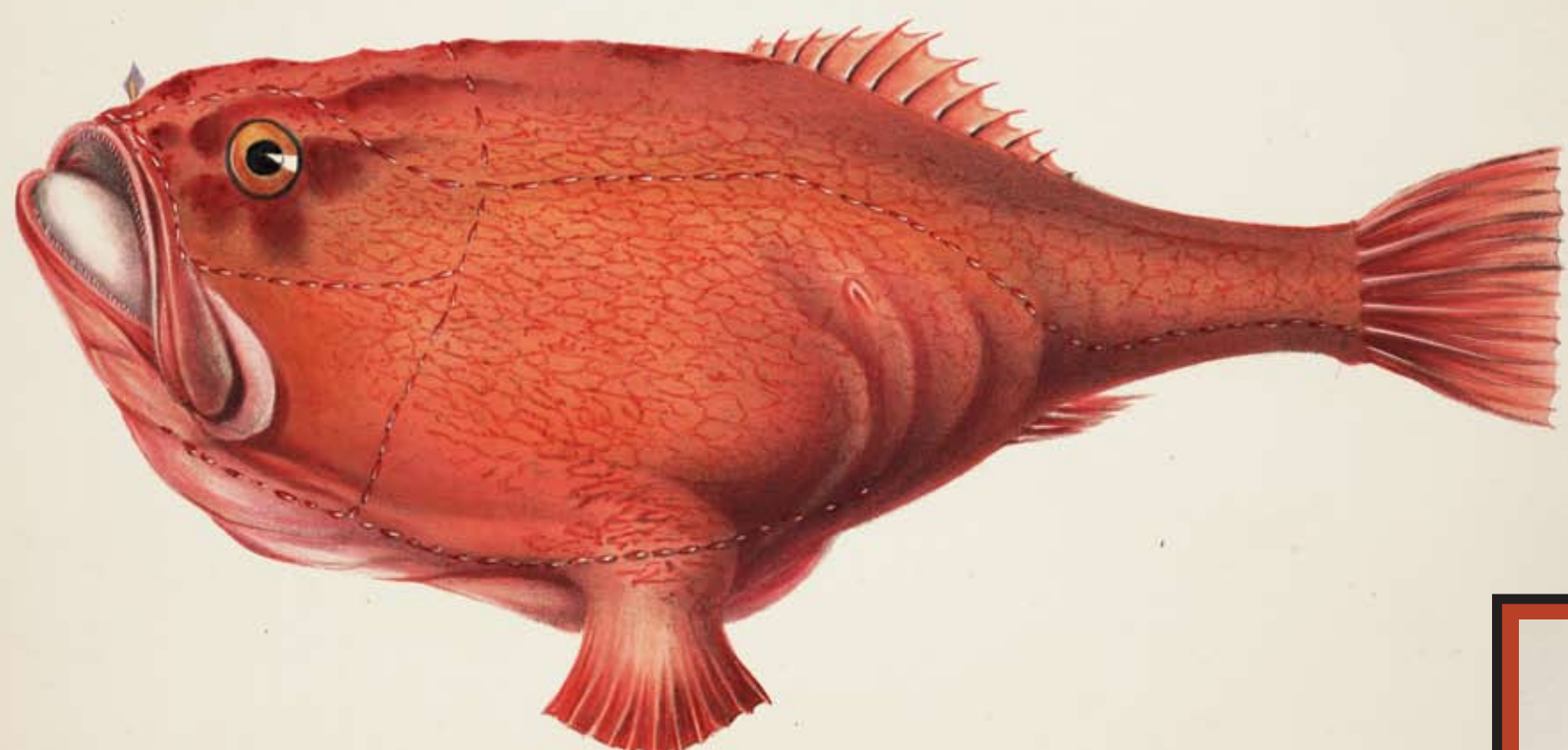




The  
Grandeur  
of  
Life

## Aquatic Oddities



*Top Left: Frogfish, drawn by E. H. Woodall, from Transactions of the Zoological Society of London, vol. 3, 1849.*

*Center Left: Sole, from Mark Catesby, The natural history of Carolina, 1754.*

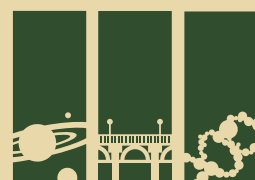
*Lower Left: Boxfish, from Andrew Smith, Illustrations of the zoology of South Africa, 1838-49.*

*Top Right: Piranha, from Johann Baptist von Spix, Selecta genera et species piscium, 1829-1831.*

*Below Right: Globefish, drawn by A. Taunay and Bevalet, from Louis de Freycinet, Voyage autour du monde, 1824-1844.*

Darwin was surprisingly well informed about a variety of fish. He wondered about the development of flatfish like the sole (where one eye migrates to the other side of the body when it is young) and how one might explain this by natural selection. While in Brazil during the *Beagle* voyage, he experimented with a globefish, to see whether it could swim when inflated. Darwin was fascinated by

lungfish, which seem to be a natural bridge between fish and amphibians and a key to the workings of natural selection. Darwin learned about some fish, such as the piranha, from publications like Spix's *Fish of Brazil*.



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