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Cover: This juvenile Apteronotus leptorhynchus, or brown ghost knifefish, belongs to one of approximately 200 species of South American gymnotiform weakly electric fishes. These animals use an active electrosense for foraging at night in often turbid waters as well as for communication. The total energetic cost of their electric behaviour, including generation and sensing of the electric field, is estimated to be about 30% of routine metabolic rate (Salazar et al., pp. 2459–2468). The articles in this special issue review the remarkable recent contributions of research on electric fishes to energetics and many other areas of biology. Photo credit: Guy l'Heureux.

SPECIAL ISSUE

Electric fishes: neural systems, behaviour and evolution

Guest editors: Rüdiger Krahe and Eric Fortune

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