



Accession Number: - Z0005

Scientific Name: -*Channa punctatus*

Family: Channidae

Common Name: Spotted snakehead fish and Channa

Physical Characteristics:



Earlier, they were placed under the genus *Ophiocephalus*. The spotted snakehead fish has a distinctive appearance, characterised by a snake-like, elongated body. Its body is typically mottled with spots or blotches; hence the name "spotted" snakehead. The colouration can vary but often includes shades of brown, tan, and black. This species can grow to considerable size, with adults reaching up to 1 meter (3.3 feet) in length. Juveniles are significantly smaller and often exhibit distinct colour patterns.

Geographical Distribution: -

It is found in Southeast Asia, mainly in India, Bangladesh, and Myanmar.

Economic Importance: -

The Economic importance is complex, with benefits as a food fish and in aquaculture tempered by concerns about its potential as an invasive species. Sustainable management practices are essential for balancing the economic benefits of snakehead fish with the need to protect native ecosystems and biodiversity.