



Accession Number: - ZOO103

Scientific Name: - *Pterocryptis wynaadensis*

Family: Siluridae

Common Name: Malabar silurus

Physical Characteristics:

It has an elongated, slender body. Adult individuals can reach a length of about 15 to 20 centimetres. They have a long anal fin that runs along the underside of the body, while the dorsal fin is small and located near the head. The pectoral and pelvic fins are also relatively small, and they have prominent barbels around the mouth, which are used to sense their environment and find food. Their eyes are small, indicative of their adaptation to low-light environments in murky waters. They have a wide mouth with small, sharp teeth, well-suited to their carnivorous diet of insects, small fish, and other aquatic invertebrates.

Geographical Distribution:

This species is primarily found in the Western Ghats, specifically in the states of Kerala and Karnataka.

Economic Importance:

Economically, it has limited importance, but it plays a vital role in local ecosystems, contributes to biodiversity, and holds potential for scientific research and conservation efforts. In the literature, *Pterocryptis wynaadensis* is classified as Critically Endangered.

