



Accession Number: - Z00016

Scientific Name: -*Wallago attu*

Family: Siluridae

Common Name: Helicopter catfish or Lanchi

Physical Characteristics:

It has an elongated, cylindrical body, typical of catfish. It has a broad, flattened head with a wide mouth lined with sharp teeth. The body colouration varies from grey to olive-brown on the dorsal side, fading to lighter ventral colours. It may also exhibit irregular, dark blotches or mottling along its body. It is known for its large size, with adults reaching lengths of up to 200 centimetres (approximately 6.6 feet) and weights exceeding 50 kilograms (110 pounds). It is one of the largest catfish species found in its range.

Geographical Distribution:

It is found in India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, Myanmar, and Sri Lanka. In India, it is in the rivers of the Indo-Gangetic plains.

Economic Importance:

It has economic benefits as a food fish, and in aquaculture, its management is crucial to ensure sustainable use and prevent negative impacts on native ecosystems and biodiversity. Sustainable fisheries management practices, aquaculture techniques, and invasive species control measures are essential to balancing the economic benefits of Wallago catfish with the need to protect local environments and livelihoods.

