



Accession Number: - Z00018

Scientific Name: -*Xenentodon cancila*

Family: Belontiidae

Common Name: Freshwater Garfish *Xenentodon cancila* has a long, slender, and elongated body, characterised by a cylindrical shape. The body is generally silvery with a greenish or bluish tinge along the dorsal side. The ventral side is typically lighter, almost white. One of the most distinctive features is its long, beak-like snout, which is filled with sharp teeth. The dorsal and anal fins are positioned far back on the body, near the tail. The pectoral fins are small and located just behind the gills, while the pelvic fins are located mid-body.

Geographical Distribution:

This species is native to South Asia, including India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. It inhabits rivers, streams, ponds, and lakes.

Economic Importance:

While *Xenentodon cancila* may not be as economically significant as some more extensive or more commercially valuable fish species, it nonetheless plays a vital role in local economies through fisheries, the aquarium trade, recreational activities, scientific research, and the provision of ecosystem services. Conservation and sustainable management of its populations are essential to maintaining these economic benefits.

