



Accession Number: - Z00021

Scientific Name: -*Mastacembelus armatus*

Family: Mastacembelidae

Common Name: Tire Track Eel or Zigzag Eel

Physical Characteristics:

It has a long, snake-like body, resembling tyre tracks with dark lines, and has dorsal and anal fins, resembling tyre tracks or zigzag patterns along its body. These markings run



longitudinally along its slender body, giving it a unique and striking appearance. The colouration can vary from grayish-brown to yellowish-brown, often blending with the substrate. These eels can grow relatively large, reaching lengths of up to 30 inches (about 76 centimetres) in captivity, although they are typically smaller in the wild.

Geographical Distribution:

It is primarily found in freshwater habitats throughout Southeast Asia, including Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam.

Economic Importance:

It may not be a significant economic resource compared to some other freshwater species. Still, its contributions to the aquarium trade, local fisheries, and ecosystem functioning highlight its modest but noteworthy economic importance in certain regions.