



Accession Number: - Z00026

Scientific Name: -*Oreochromis niloticus*

Family: Cichlidae

Common Name: Jalebi fish, Nile Tilapia

Physical Characteristics:

Tilapia generally has a deep, laterally compressed body with a rounded shape. It appears to be grey, silver, or dark green. During breeding, males may exhibit brighter colours, such as red or blue, to attract females. They have a single dorsal fin. Fin is continuous and extended from the head to the base of the tail with a spiny anterior part and a soft, rayed posterior part. Pectoral, pelvic, and anal fins are well-developed, aiding in their manoeuvrability in water. The caudal (tail) fin is generally rounded or slightly forked. *Tilapia* has a terminal mouth with a set of pharyngeal teeth in its throat, adapted for crushing and grinding plant material. Their lips are often thick and fleshy.

Geographical Distribution:

They are now found in tropical and subtropical regions worldwide, including Asia, South America, North America, and the Caribbean.

Economic Importance:

It is multifaceted, encompassing aquaculture, food security, international trade, recreational fishing, and scientific research. Its role as a sustainable, affordable, and nutritious food source makes it a key player in global fisheries and aquaculture, contributing significantly to both local economies and international markets.

