



**Accession Number: - Z00027**

**Scientific Name: -*Bagarius bagarius***

**Family: Sisoridae**

**Common Name: Goonch or Giant Devil catfish**

**Physical Characteristics:**

It is one of the largest freshwater catfish species, capable of reaching impressive sizes. It has an elongated, cylindrical body with a robust build. The body colouration of *Bagarius bagarius* varies, often ranging from dark grey to black on the dorsal side, transitioning to lighter shades on the ventral side.

Some individuals may exhibit mottled or spotted patterns on their bodies. It possesses a large dorsal fin with a serrated leading edge and a rounded shape. The pectoral and pelvic fins are well-developed, aiding in stability and control during swimming. The caudal (tail) fin is deeply forked, providing propulsion in swift currents. The body is covered with mucus rather than scales.

**Geographical Distribution:**

It is found in the freshwater river systems of South and Southeast Asia, native to the rivers and streams of the Indian subcontinent, including Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam.

**Economic Importance:**

It may not have significant direct economic importance on a large scale, but it does contribute to local fisheries, recreational fishing, and, in certain regions, aquaculture. Additionally, the species may hold cultural and ecological value, which indirectly contributes to local economies through tourism and conservation efforts.

