



**Accession Number: - Z00054**

**Scientific Name: *Clarias batrachus***

**Family: Clariidae**

**Common Name: Walking catfish**

**Physical Characteristics:**

Elongated, eel-like bodies with mottled brown or grey colouration. They have smooth, scaleless skin and a pair of long barbels (whisker-like sensory organs) on their upper jaw. Their dorsal and pectoral fins have sharp, serrated spines.



**Geographical Distribution:**

*Clarias batrachus* is native to freshwater habitats in Southeast Asia, including India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, and Indonesia.

**Economic Importance:**

It plays crucial roles in local ecosystems and aquaculture, and its invasive potential in non-native environments underscores the need for responsible management and conservation efforts. They are cultivated for food in many parts of Asia due to their rapid growth rate, hardiness, and tolerance of poor water quality. They are an essential source of protein for local communities. In regions where it has been introduced outside its native range, the walking catfish can become invasive and pose ecological threats to native aquatic ecosystems.