

*Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*  
(*Aristichthys nobilis*)

# Bighead Carp

Other common names: Asian carp,  
flying carp

Cyprinidae, the carp family



## Diagnostic Characteristics

- Head and mouth are disproportioned to body
- Eyes are located below midline of body and slightly project downward
- Body has a dark grey to white on underside
- Possess cycloid-shaped scales
- Protruding lower jaw with no teeth

## Background

- Native to southern and central China; introduced as filter feeders to improve water quality in aquaculture facilities
- Inhabits rivers, lakes, reservoirs, streams, ponds, and canals
- Reside close to the surface and leap from the water when disturbed
- Fast-growing and cause significant reductions in base food chain species
- Out competes native species and become the dominant fish in systems they invade

Photo Credit:

5431284 - U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Geological Survey, Bugwood.org

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