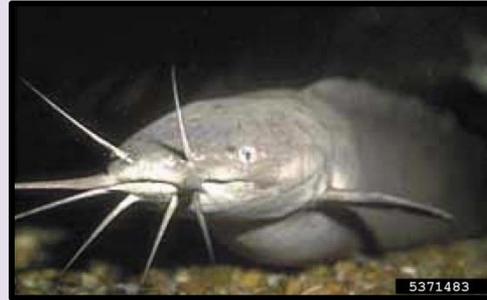


*Clarias spp.*

# Walking Catfish

Clariidae, the catfish family



## Diagnostic Characteristics

- Flat head and elongated body
- Body is varied in color; olive, dark brown, and/or purple to black
- 4 pairs of barbels (“whiskers”)
- Fleshy, papillated lips
- Continuous dorsal fin along back  $\frac{2}{3}$  of body; no spine
- Lacks adipose fin
- Pectoral spines finely serrated at margins and are used for walking

## Background

- Native to southeast Asia; also invasive in its native range
- Inhabits lakes, rivers, and waterways
- Prefers stagnant, muddy, or swampy water
- Burrow into sides of waterways and lie dormant during winter
- Known to “walk” across land and invade aquaculture facilities
- Outcompetes native catfish
- Voracious and opportunistic predator fish
- First introduced into Florida through the aquarium trade

Photo Credit:

5371483 - Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Bugwood.org

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5430846 - U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Geological Survey, Bugwood.org

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