

Ameiurus catus

(White Catfish)

[Taxonomy](#) • [Physical Description](#) • [Distribution](#) • [Habitat](#) • [Similar Species](#) • [Bibliography](#) • [More Info](#) • [Notes](#)

Overview:

Family: North American freshwater catfishes; Sluggish, mud-bottomed pools, open channels, and backwaters of small to large rivers; also in lakes and impoundments.

Taxonomy

Kingdom: *Animalia* Linnaeus, 1758 - animals

Subkingdom: *Bilateria* (Hatschek, 1888) Cavalier-Smith, 1983 - bilaterians, triploblastic animals

Branch: *Deuterostomia* Grobden, 1908 - deuterostomes

Infrakingdom: *Chordonia* (Haeckel, 1874) Cavalier-Smith, 1998

Phylum: *Chordata* Bateson, 1885 - chordates

Subphylum: *Vertebrata* Cuvier, 1812 - vertebrates

Infraphylum: *Gnathostomata* auct. - jawed vertebrates

Superclass: *Osteichthyes* Huxley, 1880 - bony fishes

Class: *Actinopterygii* Cope 1887 - ray-finned fishes

Order: *Siluriformes* - catfishes

Family: *Ictaluridae*

Genus: *Ameiurus* (Yerger & Relyea, 1968)

Species: *catus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Scientific Name: *Ameiurus catus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Unambiguous Synonyms:

Ictalurus catus (Linnaeus, 1758) • *Silurus catus* Linnaeus, 1758

About the family Ictaluridae: **Distribution:** North America from southern Canada to Guatemala. **Head** with eight **barbels**: 2 **nasal**, 2 **maxillary** and 4 **chin**. **Scaleless**. A **spine** on **anterior edge** of **dorsal** (except in *Pritella*) and **pectoral fins**. Dorsal soft **rays** usually 6. No **palatine teeth**. About 1.6 **m maximum length** attained in *Ictalurus furcatus* and *Pylodictis olivaris*. Three unrelated eyeless **species** are known from deep wells.

The family *Ictaluridae* belongs to the **Class Actinopterygii** (ray-finned fishes) and the **Order Siluriformes**. It contains 7 **genera** and 45 **species**. It may be found in **Freshwater** environments and is primarily **Primary freshwater**. Some **members** of this family are used in the **aquarium** trade. Reproductively, most members of this family are **guarders**. The main **mode** of swimming of **adult fish** in this family is subcarangiform. Compared with other fish, the activity level of this family tends to be normal. This family may be found from 54° n to 16° s and 120° w to 62° e. **Eymology** of this **family name**: Greek, **ichthys** = fish + Greek, **ailouros** = cat; a cat fish

Notes:

Authority: Welcomme, R.L. **International introductions of inland aquatic species**. FAO Fish. Tech. Pap. 294. 318 p., 1988.

Name **Status**: Accepted Name. **Synonym**: *Silurus catus*. Latest **taxonomic** scrutiny: June 27, 1997.

Other common **names**: Danish: Hvid dværgmalle, Finnish: Valkopiikkimonna.

Physical Description

Males are commonly 30 cm (**Total Length**) in length when caught/marketed, but may be as large as 95 cm (Total Length).

Photos and Drawings:



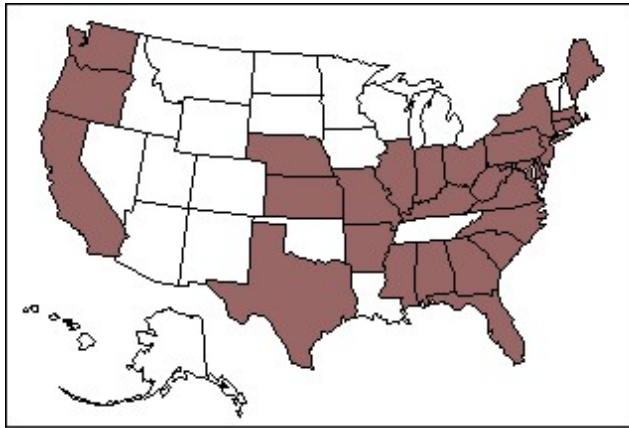
Unsexed specimen of *Ameiurus catus* Photographer: [Robert Rice](#)



Ameiurus catus Photographer: [Duane Raver](#) Credit: **U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service** Source: <http://images.fws.gov/> Permissions for Use: See [here](#).

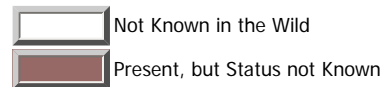
Distribution

Political Regions:



United States: (Alabama • Arkansas • California • Connecticut • Delaware • Florida • Georgia • Illinois • Indiana • Kansas • Kentucky • Massachusetts • Maryland • Maine • Missouri • Mississippi • Nebraska • North Carolina • New Jersey • New York • Ohio • Oregon • Pennsylvania • Rhode Island • South Carolina • Texas • Virginia • Washington • West Virginia)

Canada: (Manitoba • Newfoundland and Labrador • Ontario • Quebec)



Germany • Mexico • Puerto Rico • Russia • United States

Observations:

Data Sources: • [Fishbase \[30\]](#) • [FishBase DiGIR Provider - Philippine Server \[7\]](#) • [FishBase DiGIR Provider - Philippine Server \[5\]](#)
Number of Records used from each source for this map shown in [square brackets]

Range and Population: Caribbean, North America

North America: [Rivers](#) of the Atlantic coastal states of USA from Florida to New York. Trade [restricted](#) in Germany (Anl.3 BArtSchV).

Habitat

Biome:

Fresh [water](#). Demersal.

Bibliography

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Notes

Contributors:

- **Allen, Gerald R.** (from FishBase).
- Brands, S.J. (comp.) 1989-2006. Systema Naturae 2000. [The Taxonomicon](#). Universal Taxonomic Services, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Accessed October 4, 2006.
- Global Biodiversity Information Facility. Accessed May 20, 2006. <http://www.gbif.org> Mediated distribution data from 10 providers.

Identifiers:

- **Integrated Taxonomic Information System Serial Number:** **164037**
- **Fishbase Species ID:** **3018**
- **Natural Heritage Network Species Identifier:** **AFCKA06020**
- **Species2000 Name Code:** **Fis-24705**
- **Zipcode Zoo Species Identifier:** **15926**

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