

Clarias (Cat fish)

Classification :

Kingdom : Animalia

Phylum : Chordata

Class : Actinopterygii

Order : Siluriformes

Family : Clariidae

Genus : Clarias



For further details, [Link](#)

Characteristics :

- Clarias fish, or walking catfish, are characterized by their elongated bodies, broad heads, barbels, and a unique accessory air-breathing organ that enables them to survive in oxygen-poor and even dry environments.
- Clarias fish are known for their air-breathing ability, using a special labyrinth organ to survive outside water and "walk" on land.
- **Body and Head:** Elongated, eel-like body that tapers towards the tail, with a broad, flat, bony head.
- **Mouth and Barbels:** A broad mouth with four pairs of whisker-like barbels used for sensing.
- **Fins:** Long-based dorsal and anal fins, and pectoral fins with sharp, serrated spines.
- **Air-Breathing Organ:** A specialized, tree-like organ composed of modified gill arches that allows them to breathe air, a critical adaptation for survival in low-oxygen waters.
- **Eyes:** Small eyes.
- **Land-walking:** Due to their ability to breathe air, they can survive out of water for several hours and use their pectoral fins to "walk" or push themselves across dry land to find new water sources.

- The pectoral fins, unlike the dorsal fin, are equipped with a strong, internally serrated spine that can deliver a venomous sting to predators.

Habit (Behaviour)

- **Walking:** They can use their pectoral fins and body movements to propel themselves across land, often after heavy rains, to find food or new water sources.
- **Habitat Preference:** They prefer shallow, stagnant, and muddy waters, such as swamps, rivers, ponds, and rice paddies.
- **Solitary:** Primarily a solitary fish, though they can be found with other species.
- **Territoriality:** They are generally not territorial, except during mating season when males guard their nests.

Habitat

- **Aquatic:** Found in freshwater environments like rivers, lakes, ponds, and wetlands.
- **Oxygen-Poor Environments:** Thrives in stagnant, oxygen-poor waters due to its air-breathing adaptations.
- **Muddy Substrates:** Prefers to lie on or in muddy substrates.
- **Migratory:** Their ability to move on land allows them to migrate from drying pools to other water bodies.