

Armoured Sailfin Catfish

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About Armoured Sailfin Catfish:

- It is commonly referred to as the **Rakashior devil fish**.
- Scientifically known as **Pterygoplichthys** and is an **invasive species**.
- It possesses an uncanny ability to subsist on a diverse diet and can **endure oxygen-deprived conditions**. It can even navigate on land using its powerful fins.
- It was once introduced for its unique appearance and its ability to clean algal growth in tanks and aquaria.
- Out of the 14 species listed as invasive by the **National Biodiversity Authority (NBA)** of India, six were introduced solely for the ornamental fish trade.
- Among those six listed species, **four belong to Pterygoplichthys**, remarking it to be one of the most invasive genera of fish.
- It has garnered notoriety due to its **lack of commercial value**, formidable sharp spines, and robust body, which pose a threat to fishing nets and have even caused injuries to fishermen in some instances.

- **Impact on biodiversity:** It is known to voraciously consume native fish species, jeopardizing the delicate aquatic ecosystem.
- Its population has grown exponentially and this was realised through a **unique ‘eDNA-based quantitative PCR assay’** developed by the institute scientists to map the presence and spread of such invasive species,

What is eDNA?

- **Environmental DNA (edna)** is **DNA** shed by all **organisms into their surroundings** through natural processes during their lifetime or after death.

Source: It originates from cellular material shed by organisms (via the skin, excrement, etc.) into aquatic or terrestrial environments that can be sampled and monitored using new molecular methods.

Q1: What is an invasive species?

Invasive species is a non-native organism (plant, animal, fungus, or microbe) that is introduced to a new environment, ecosystem, or habitat, where it spreads rapidly and causes harm to the local environment, economy, or human health.

Source: CCMB scientists find armoured sailfin catfish has spread to 60% of water bodies of Eastern Ghats

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/armoured-sailfin-catfish/>

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