



A *Channa punctatus* (Fish)

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Abstract

Channa punctatus is typically found 15.0 cm (5.9 in) long; however males up to 31.0 cm (12.2 in) have been captured. The IUCN classifies the spotted snakehead as Least Concern owing to the lack of serious threats to these species' populations. The species is mostly a carnivore. This species' favorite meal is the yolk flies and fish larvae of other tiny fish. It feeds on crustaceans, snails, insects, tiny fishes, semi-digested debris, and occasionally plants in its native environment. Its dietary habits alter with the seasons. During the spawning season, the intensity of eating in adult fishes is low. A juvenile fish's eating habits are constant.

Keywords - *Channa punctatus*, taxonomy, carnivorous, environment.

Introduction

Channa is a genus of predatory fish in the family Channidae, commonly known as snakeheads, native to freshwater habitats in Asia. This genus contains about 50 scientifically described species. The genus has a wide natural distribution extending from Iraq in the west, to Indonesia and China in the east, and parts of Siberia in the Far East. A particularly high richness of species exists in Myanmar (Burma) and northeastern India, and many *Channa* species live nowhere else. In contrast, a few widespread species have been introduced to several regions outside their natural range, where they often become invasive. The large and medium-sized *Channa* species are among the most common staple food fish in several Asian countries, and they are extensively cultured. Apart from their importance as a food fish, snakeheads are consumed in some regions as a traditional medicine for wound healing and reducing postoperative pain and discomfort, and collected for the international aquarium pet trade.

All snakeheads are highly predatory, and the diets of the various species of *Channa* include fish, amphibians (like frogs), snakes, rodents, birds, and invertebrates (insects and crustaceans). They have a labyrinth organ, which allows them to breathe air for short periods, and they use this adaptation to travel across land in the event that their habitat becomes inhospitable. They are mostly solitary or live in monogamous pairs that are highly aggressive towards outsiders of their own species, but *C. pleurophthalma* often occurs in small groups. Larger species are mostly nestbrooding (making a nest of vegetation at the water surface), [1] and the dwarfs mostly paternal mouthbrooding, but exceptions occur; the large *C. barca* is a paternal mouthbrooder and the dwarf *C. bleheri* is a free-spawner (the eggs float to the surface where the parents take care of them, but they do not mouthbrood or built a nest).

This is most probable for spawning to take at night in intertidal zone with a silty substrate to occur. Eggs are laid in nests that look like vertical columns of water with the eggs floating in the centre, which are erected by convoluted

tunnels in densely vegetated locations. In order for the eggs to be fertilised, the male and female must migrate towards the middle of the nest, where the male entwines his body around the female's, who then moves upward while releasing the eggs to be fertilised. The eggs are guarded by either one or both of the parents. Hatching occurs inside a given day.

Taxonomy

The taxonomy of the genus *Channa* is incomplete, and a comprehensive revision of the family has not been performed. A phylogenetic study in 2010 has indicated the likelihood of the existence of undescribed species of channids in Southeast Asia, and a more comprehensive phylogenetic study in 2017 indicated that several undescribed species exist in Asia (as well as an undescribed *Parachanna* in Africa). In 2011, the Malabar snakehead *Channa diplogramma* from peninsular India was shown to be a distinct species, 146 years after its initial description and 134 years after it was synonymised with *C. micropeltes*, establishing it is an endemic species of peninsular India. The study also suggested that the species shared a most recent common ancestor with *C. micropeltes*, around 9.52 to 21.76MYA.



Channa striata occurs mainly in shallow freshwater habitats, typically at depths of 1-2 m, rarely below 10 meters. This species can be found in most types of slow-moving freshwater habitat, including rivers, lakes, ponds, canals, creeks, flooded rice paddies, irrigation reservoirs, and

swamps. Compared to most freshwater fish it is quite tolerant of turbid conditions and low oxygen levels. In regions with rainy and dry seasons, these fish may migrate out from permanent lakes and streams into flooded areas during the rainy season, and then return to permanent waters as the flooded areas dry.

Classification

Phylum: Chordata

Class: Actinopterygii (Ray-finned fishes)

Order: Perciformes (Perches)

Suborder: Channoidei (Ophiocephaliformes)

Family: Channidae (Snakeheads)

Genus: *Channa*

Species: *punctata*

Species

1) <i>Channa amari</i>	28) <i>Channa maculata</i>
2) <i>Channa amphibeus</i>	29) <i>Channa maruloides</i>
3) <i>Channa andrao</i>	30) <i>Channa marulius</i>
4) <i>Channa argus</i>	31) <i>Channa melanoptera</i>
5) <i>Channa aristonei</i>	32) <i>Channa melanostigma</i>
6) <i>Channa asiatica</i>	33) <i>Channa melasoma</i>
7) <i>Channa aurantimaculata</i>	34) <i>Channa micropeltes</i>
8) <i>Channa aurantipectoralis</i>	35) <i>Channa ninhbinhensis</i>
9) <i>Channa auroflammea</i>	36) <i>Channa nox</i>
10) <i>Channa aurolineata</i>	37) <i>Channa orientalis</i>
11) <i>Channa bankanensis</i>	38) <i>Channa ornatipinnis</i>
12) <i>Channa baramensis</i>	39) <i>Channa panaw</i>
13) <i>Channa barca</i>	40) <i>Channa pardalis</i>
14) <i>Channa bipuli</i>	41) <i>Channa pieurophthalma</i>
15) <i>Channa bleheri</i>	42) <i>Channa pomanensis</i>
16) <i>Channa brahmacharyi</i>	43) <i>Channa pseudomarulius</i>
17) <i>Channa brunnea</i>	44) <i>Channa pulchra</i>
18) <i>Channa burmanica</i>	45) <i>Channa punctata</i>
19) <i>Channa cyanospilus</i>	46) <i>Channa quinquefasciata</i>
20) <i>Channa diplogramma</i>	47) <i>Channa rara</i>
21) <i>Channa gachua</i>	48) <i>Channa royi</i>
22) <i>Channa harcourtbutleri</i>	49) <i>Channa shingon</i>
23) <i>Channa hoaluensis</i>	50) <i>Channa stewartii</i>
24) <i>Channa kalaarti</i>	51) <i>Channa stiktos</i>
25) <i>Channa limbata</i>	52) <i>Channa striata</i>
26) <i>Channa lipor</i>	53) <i>Channa torsaensis</i>
27) <i>Channa lucius</i>	

Currently, recognized species are placed in this genus

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