

Crystal-Eyed / Black Devil Catfish



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Description

This species has an enormous distribution and occurs throughout much of central Indochina and western Indonesia.

Records exist from the Mekong and Chao Phraya drainages in Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand, the Pahang River drainage in Peninsular Malaysia, Batang Hari and Musi River drainages in Sumatra, the Citarum drainage in Java, and the Baram, Rejang, Kapuas and Barito systems in Borneo.

The largest specimen known to date measured 710 mm.

Crystal Eyed Catfish are well known for their aggressive behavior which includes attacking and eating fish similar in size to themselves and their lack of fear towards larger predators and even human beings.

While they are certainly both rare and exotic within the aquarium hobby, they are available from time to time and are popular with who enjoy keeping truly "monster" fish.

The Crystal Eyed Black Devil Catfish (also known as *Hemibagrus wyckii*) is a striking and powerful predatory catfish known for its pitch-black body and glowing, crystal-like eyes. Native to Southeast Asia, particularly the Mekong and Chao Phraya river basins, this species thrives in fast-flowing rivers and is admired for its elusive nature and formidable presence.

First described in the mid-20th century, the Black Devil Catfish quickly gained popularity among advanced aquarists for its aggressive behavior and stunning visual contrast. These fish are carnivorous and require a diet of high-protein foods such as shrimp, fish fillets, and carnivore pellets.

Crystal Eyed Black Devil Catfish are best suited for experienced keepers and should ideally be housed alone or with other robust species.

Availability is rare and seasonal, making them a prized addition to any serious predator tank.

Product Gallery

