

# Common Carp

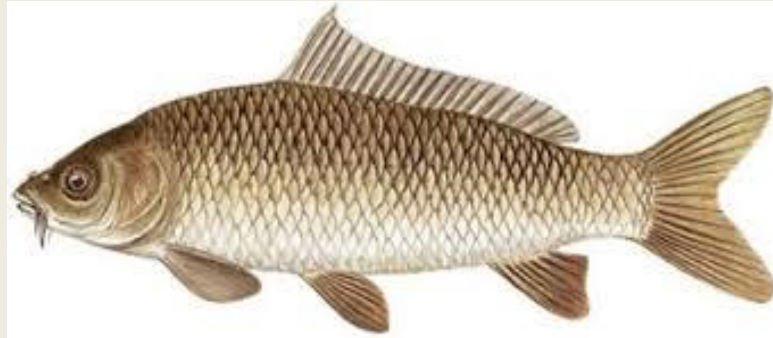
## *Cyprinus carpio*

Order: Cypriniformes

Family: Cyprinidae

Genus: Cyprinus

Species: *Cyprinus carpio*



## Description

- *Cyprinus carpio*, commonly known as the common carp, is a freshwater fish species belonging to the family Cyprinidae.
- It has a robust and elongated body covered in large scales, typically ranging from bronze to golden-orange in coloration.
- The head is scaleless, and the mouth is characterized by prominent barbels on either side.
- Common carp can grow up to 1 meter (3.3 feet) in length and weigh over 20 kilograms.

## Distribution and Habitat:

- Native to Europe and Asia, common carp have been introduced globally and are now widely distributed across various continents.
- They inhabit freshwater ecosystems including rivers, lakes, ponds, and reservoirs with slow-moving or standing water.
- Common carp prefer habitats with muddy or silty bottoms and vegetation for cover.

## Ecology

- Common carp are omnivorous, feeding on a wide range of food items including aquatic plants, algae, invertebrates, and detritus.
- They are known for their ability to adapt to different environmental conditions and their tolerance to low oxygen levels.
- Common carp play an important role in nutrient cycling within aquatic ecosystems and can significantly impact water quality through their feeding and disturbance of sediments

## Aquaculture

- *Cyprinus carpio* is one of the most extensively cultivated freshwater fish species worldwide.
- It is valued for its hardiness, rapid growth rate, and high-quality flesh. Common carp are farmed in both extensive and intensive aquaculture systems, including ponds, raceways, and cage cultures.
- They are often stocked alongside other fish species to utilize different ecological niches and maximize productivity.
- In addition to food production, common carp are also popular in recreational fisheries due to their size and fighting ability.