

Mrigal carp

Cirrhinus cirrhosus

Order: Cypriniformes

Family: Cyprinidae

Genus: *Cirrhinus*

Species: *Cirrhinus cirrhosus*



Description

- *Cirrhinus cirrhosus*, commonly known as the mrigal carp or white carp, is a freshwater fish species belonging to the family Cyprinidae.
- It has a slender and elongated body, typically silver-gray in coloration with a slightly forked tail fin.
- The head is scaleless, and the mouth is terminal without barbels.
- Adult mrigal carp can grow up to 1 meter (3.3 feet) in length and weigh around 15 kilograms.

Distribution and Habitat:

- Native to rivers and freshwater bodies across South Asia, mrigal carp are found in countries such as India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, and Myanmar.
- They prefer slow-moving or standing waters such as rivers, lakes, ponds, and reservoirs with muddy or sandy substrates.

- They thrive in warm water temperatures typically ranging from 20-30°C.

Ecology

- Mrigal carp are omnivorous, feeding on a wide range of food items including aquatic plants, algae, small invertebrates, and detritus.
- They play an important role in aquatic food webs, contributing to nutrient cycling and serving as prey for larger predators.
- Their feeding habits can influence the composition of benthic communities in their habitats.

Aquaculture

- *Cirrhinus cirrhosus* is an important species in aquaculture, particularly in South Asia.
- It is valued for its rapid growth rate, high-quality flesh, and adaptability to various aquaculture systems.
- Mrigal carp are commonly cultivated in ponds, reservoirs, and rice fields using both extensive and semi-intensive farming methods.
- They are often stocked together with other carp species to maximize productivity and utilize different niches within the ecosystem