

Armored Catfish

Armored Catfish *(Pterygoplichthys multiradiatus)*

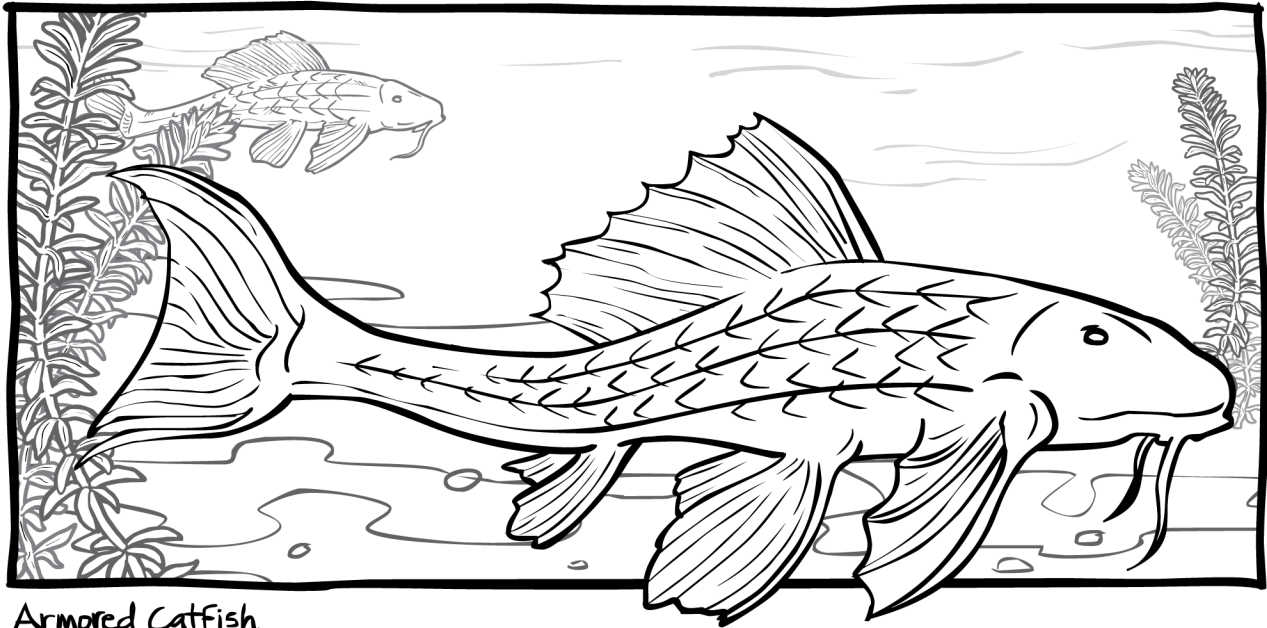
Instant ID

- Prehistoric-looking fish with a flattened belly and large, sail-like dorsal fin
- Has a disc-shaped sucker mouth which points down
- Has bony plates running the length of its back
- Grows up to 20 inches and can weigh 3 pounds
- Has skin with a marbled pattern

Hijacked Habitats

- Native to South America
- Introduced to Florida as aquarium releases and escapes
- Found in slow rivers and streams, springs, ponds and lakes
- Prefers shoreline and river bank habitats





Armored Catfish

Armored Catfish *(Pterygoplichthys multiradiatus)*

Favorite Foods

- Uses sucker mouth to eat detritus (organic material pieces)
- Also eats algae, bivalves and water fleas

Critter Characteristics

- Also known as the Orinoco sailfin catfish
- Two other similar invasive species found in Florida waters
- Females lay up to 2,000 eggs at one time
- Males dig burrows in banks and shorelines to attract females

Population Prevention

- Nesting burrows may lead to erosion and bank collapse
- Do not dump aquariums or exotic fish into storm drains or bodies of water to prevent more releases

