



High Value Indigenous Ornamental Fishes of NorthEast India



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Channa barca (Barca Snakehead)

Export and domestic market:

Highly demanded in Europe, USA, Japan, and Southeast Asia; Price is ₹25,000 – ₹1,00,000/fish in India and USD 1,500 – 5,000 per fish internationally.

Market size, weight and length:

Can reach 90–105 cm in total length; adults weigh up to 2–3 kg.

Breeding and culture status:

No successful standardized captive breeding protocol; all trade specimens are wild-caught.

Habitat of the fish: Floodplain wetlands of the upper Brahmaputra basin in Assam;
Ornamental quality: Golden to bluish body with bright blue spots and iridescent patterns make it a premium display fish.

Habitat of the fish: Slow-moving streams and vegetated wetlands of the Brahmaputra basin in Assam.

Ornamental quality: Bright red, blue, and yellow stripes on fins and body; highly colorful and peaceful compared to other snakeheads



Channa bleheri (Rainbow Snakehead)

Export and domestic market: Exported to Europe, USA, and Southeast Asia; good domestic demand among hobbyists. It's priced at ₹2,000 – 4,000 at India and USD 60 – 150 internationally.

Market size, weight and length: Reaches up to 20–25 cm in total length; slender elongated body.

Breeding and culture status: Captive breeding achieved in aquaria; parental care observed.



Habitat of the fish: Fast-flowing hill streams and rivers of Assam, Nagaland, and Arunachal Pradesh.
Ornamental quality: Brownish body with distinctive banding and patterned fins; hardy species.

Channa stewartii (Stewart's Snakehead)

Export and domestic market: Limited export; moderate domestic demand. In India, ornamental specimens usually fetch ₹1,200–3,000 per fish, while in the international market prices range from USD 40–100 (Germany, Netherlands, UK, Japan).

Market size, weight and length: Attains 25–35 cm in total length.

Breeding and culture status: No confirmed captive breeding in ornamental culture systems.

Habitat of the fish: Floodplain wetlands and slow-flowing tributaries in Assam and Meghalaya.

Ornamental quality: Small size with intense red and blue coloration; suitable for nano aquaria.



Channa andrao
(Dwarf Snakehead)

Export and domestic market: Exported to Europe and USA; niche demand in domestic aquarium trade. Price in India is ₹500–1,000 per specimen and USD 25–60 at international market.

Market size, weight and length: Small-bodied species; maximum length about 8–10 cm.

Breeding and culture status: Captive breeding successfully achieved; mouthbrooding behavior documented



Habitat of the fish: Upper Brahmaputra tributaries and wetlands of Assam; prefers vegetated habitats.

Ornamental quality: Distinct orange blotches on dark body; attractive pattern and large size.

Channa aurantimaculata
(Orange-Spotted Snakehead)

Export and domestic market: Exported to Europe and Southeast Asia; limited domestic trade. The price of this species can go as high as ₹2,500-8,500 per fish at domestic market and USD 35-100 in foreign trade.

Market size, weight and length: Can reach 40–60 cm in length.

Breeding and culture status: No standardized captive breeding protocol; wild-caught specimens dominate trade.

Habitat of the fish: Clear hill streams and slow-flowing tributaries of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

Ornamental quality: Intense blue and red vertical bands; territorial behavior and unique breeding display.



Badis assamensis
(Assam Badis)

Ornamental market value: High; considered a premium dwarf cichlid-like ornamental fish.

Export and domestic market: Exported to Europe and USA; niche domestic aquarium hobby market. The fish is priced at ₹400 – ₹1,000 in India and USD 20 – 50 internationally.

Market size, weight and length: Small-bodied species; reaches 6–8 cm in length.

Breeding and culture status: No standardized captive breeding protocol; wild-caught individuals dominate trade.



Habitat of the fish: Clear hill streams and slow-flowing tributaries of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

Ornamental quality: Intense blue and red vertical bands; territorial behavior and unique breeding display.

Badis badis (Blue Perch)

Ornamental market value: Moderate to high; popular among dwarf fish enthusiasts.

Export and domestic market: Exported to Europe and Southeast Asia; moderate domestic demand. The fish is priced at ₹400 – ₹1,000 in India and USD 20 – 50 internationally.

Market size, weight and length: Small-bodied species; reaches 6–7 cm in length.

Breeding and culture status: Captive breeding achieved in aquaria.

Habitat of the fish: Floodplain wetlands, rivers, and beels of Assam and NE India.

Ornamental quality: Leaf-like camouflage body; cryptic coloration and predatory behavior.



Nandus nandus (Gangetic Leaf Fish)

Ornamental market value: High due to unique morphology and rarity in aquaria.

Export and domestic market: Exported to Europe and USA; limited domestic ornamental trade. Price in India is ₹80-150 per fish and USD 5-12 internationally.

Market size, weight and length: Reaches 20–25 cm in length.

Breeding and culture status: Experimental captive breeding attempts; not commercialized.



Badis badis (Blue Perch)

Habitat of the fish: Slow-flowing rivers and muddy substrates of Brahmaputra basin.

Ornamental quality: Bizarre flattened head and frog-like appearance; highly attractive for exotic aquaria.

Ornamental market value: High in international niche ornamental trade.

Export and domestic market: Exported to Europe and USA; niche domestic demand. It is highly valued in biotope aquaria for its large frog-like head and excellent camouflage. In India, it fetches ₹300–1,000 and exported (Japan, EU) at USD 40–120 per fish.

Market size, weight and length: Can reach 20–25 cm in length.

Breeding and culture status: No successful captive breeding protocol.



Parambassis ranga (Indian Glass Fish)

Habitat of the fish: Floodplain rivers, ponds, and wetlands of Assam.

Ornamental quality: Transparent body showing internal organs; schooling behavior.

Ornamental market value: Moderate; popular beginner ornamental fish.

Export and domestic market: Exported to Asia and Europe; good domestic demand. It is priced at ₹30-60 in India and USD 1-8 at international market.

Market size, weight and length: Reaches 6–8 cm in length.

Breeding and culture status: Captive breeding established using hormonal induction.



Habitat of the fish: Slow-flowing rivers and floodplains of NE India.

Ornamental quality: Transparent body with elongated dorsal fin; schooling fish.

Parambassis lala (Highfin Glass Perchlet)

Ornamental market value: Moderate to high in ornamental trade.

Export and domestic market: Exported to Southeast Asia; moderate domestic demand. In India it is priced at ₹30-50 and USD 6-10 in foreign market.

Market size, weight and length: Attains 6–7 cm in length.

Breeding and culture status: Limited captive breeding success.



Habitat of the fish: Clear hill streams and rivers of Assam and Meghalaya.

Ornamental quality: Leopard-like spots on body; active schooling behavior.

Danio dangila (Leopard Danio)

Ornamental market value: High in international aquarium trade.

Export and domestic market: Exported to Europe and USA; moderate domestic demand. Price of this fish ranges between ₹200 – ₹500 in India and USD 8 – 20 internationally.

Market size, weight and length: Reaches 10–12 cm in length.

Breeding and culture status: Captive breeding achieved.



Habitat of the fish: Fast-flowing hill streams of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

Ornamental quality: Yellow horizontal stripes with iridescent body.

Devario assamensis (Assam Devario)

Ornamental market value: High due to rarity and coloration.

Export and domestic market: Exported to Europe and Southeast Asia; limited domestic trade. The fish is priced at ₹400 – ₹1,000 in India and USD 20 – 50 internationally.

Market size, weight and length: Reaches 10–12 cm in length.

Breeding and culture status: No standardized captive breeding protocol.



Rasbora daniconius (NE Rasbora)

Habitat of the fish: Streams and rivers of Assam and Meghalaya.

Ornamental quality: Silver body with red fins; schooling fish.

Ornamental market value: Moderate.

Export and domestic market: Limited export; domestic demand as ornamental and food fish. Price in India ranges between ₹20-50 and USD 1-5 in foreign market

Market size, weight and length: Reaches 15 cm in length.

Breeding and culture status: No ornamental captive breeding protocols.



Esomus dandricus (Flying Barb)

Habitat of the fish: Floodplain waters, rivers, and ponds of Assam.

Ornamental quality: Long barbels and streamlined body; schooling behavior.

Ornamental market value: Moderate.

Export and domestic market: Limited export; domestic demand as ornamental and food fish. Price in India is ₹20-50 per fish and USD 4-9 at international market.

Market size, weight and length: Reaches 15 cm in length.

Breeding and culture status: No ornamental captive breeding protocols.

Habitat of the fish: Brahmaputra river basin and tributaries.

Ornamental quality: Tiger-like stripes and active bottom-dwelling behavior.

Ornamental market value: Moderate to high.



Botia dario (Bengal Loach)

Ornamental market value: Moderate to high.

Export and domestic market: Exported to Europe and Asia; good domestic aquarium demand. Domestic market price is ₹ 20-50 but highly priced at international market that is USD 15-30 per fish.

Market size, weight and length: Reaches 15–18 cm in length.

Breeding and culture status: Rare captive breeding success.



Habitat of the fish: Floodplains and slow-flowing waters of Assam.

Ornamental quality: Blue and red bands; labyrinth breathing organ.

Trichogaster lalius (Wild Dwarf Gourami)

Ornamental market value: Moderate; highly popular aquarium fish.

Export and domestic market: Exported worldwide; high domestic demand. Domestic market price is ₹ 60-150 based on size and coloration and USD 7-15 at international market.

Market size, weight and length: Reaches 6–7 cm in length.

Breeding and culture status: Captive breeding well established.

Habitat of the fish: Floodplains and wetlands of Assam.

Ornamental quality: Striped body with extended fins.



Colisa fasciata (Banded Gourami)

Ornamental market value: Moderate.

Export and domestic market: Exported to Asia; good domestic demand. Price in India is ₹300-7000 per fish and USD 10-15 internationally.

Market size, weight and length: Reaches 10–12 cm in length.

Breeding and culture status: Captive breeding achieved.



Pseudecheneis sulcatus
(Sucker Catfish)

Habitat of the fish:

Fast-flowing hill streams of Arunachal and Nagaland.

Ornamental quality:

Flattened body with adhesive apparatus; rheophilic ornamental.

Ornamental market value:

High in niche hillstream aquarium trade.

Export and domestic market:

Exported to Europe; limited domestic demand.

Market size, weight and length:

Reaches 15–20 cm in length.

Breeding and culture status:

No captive breeding.

Habitat of the fish: Clear hill streams of Mizoram.

Ornamental quality: Bright striped body; active bottom-dweller.

Ornamental market value: High due to novelty and rarity.

Export and domestic market:

Exported to Europe; limited domestic trade. It fetches a price of ₹500–₹1,200 in India and exported to other countries at USD 10-15.

Market size, weight and length:

Reaches 8–10 cm in length.

Breeding and culture status: No

captive breeding.



Schistura aizawlensis
(Aizawl Stone Loach)



Habitat of the fish: Rivers and floodplain wetlands of Assam.

Ornamental quality: Small freshwater puffer with spotted body.

Tetraodon cutcutia (Indian Dwarf Puffer)

Ornamental market value: High in exotic aquarium trade.

Export and domestic market: Exported to Europe and USA; niche domestic trade. In India, it is sold for around ₹300–700 per fish, while internationally it commands USD 15–20.

Market size, weight and length: Reaches 8–10 cm in length.

Breeding and culture status: Rare captive breeding success.

Habitat of the fish: Rivers and streams of NE India.

Ornamental quality: Orange body with dark bands; attractive fin coloration.



Botia berdmorei
(Red-Finned Tiger Loach)

Ornamental market value: High in ornamental trade.

Export and domestic market: Exported globally; niche domestic demand. In international market it is priced at USD 7-30 per fish.

Market size, weight and length: Reaches 20 cm in length.

Breeding and culture status: Captive breeding limited and experimental.



Habitat of the fish: Rivers and wetlands of Brahmaputra basin.
Ornamental quality: Eye-like spots on body; burrowing behavior.

***Macrogathus pancalus* (Peacock Spiny Eel)**

Ornamental market value: Moderate.

Export and domestic market: Exported to Asia and Europe; domestic aquarium demand. Price in India is ₹150-250 per fish and USD 12-30 at international market.

Market size, weight and length: Reaches 15–20 cm in length.

Breeding and culture status: Limited captive breeding.

Habitat of the fish: Rivers and lakes of Assam and NE India.

Ornamental quality: Dark zigzag patterns on body.



***Mastacembelus armatus* (Tire Track Eel)**

Ornamental market value: Moderate to high.

Export and domestic market: Exported to Asia; domestic ornamental demand. In India, the fish is priced at ₹250–500 and internationally at USD 15–30.

Market size, weight and length: Reaches 50–80 cm in length.

Breeding and culture status: Hormonal breeding attempted.



Habitat of the fish: Slow-flowing rivers and floodplain wetlands of Assam.

Ornamental quality: Golden-yellow body with distinct fins; peaceful schooling fish.

Oreichthys crenuchooides (Assam Oreichthys)

Ornamental market value: High in niche ornamental trade.

Export and domestic market: Exported to Europe and Asia; limited domestic demand. Its price is ₹400 – ₹700 in India and USD 20 – 40 internationally.

Market size, weight and length: Small-bodied; reaches 4–5 cm in length.

Breeding and culture status: No captive breeding protocol established.

Habitat of the fish: Hill streams, ponds, and wetlands across Assam, Meghalaya, and Arunachal.

Ornamental quality: Multiple color morphs with red, blue, and green patterns; popular dwarf snakeheads



Channa gachua

Ornamental market value: High due to color variation and rarity.

Export and domestic market: Exported worldwide; good domestic hobbyist demand. Domestic market price is ₹ 50-250 and at international market it is USD 5-10 per fish.

Market size, weight and length: Small-bodied; reaches 15–20 cm in length.

Breeding and culture status: Captive breeding achieved for some morphs.



Habitat of the fish: Rivers, floodplains, and wetlands of Assam.

Ornamental quality: Knife-shaped body; silver metallic sheen.

Notopterus notopterus (Bronze Featherback)

Ornamental market value: Moderate in ornamental trade.

Export and domestic market: Exported in juvenile form; domestic ornamental and food fish demand. Price in India is ₹180-350 per specimen and USD 25-60 at international market.

Market size, weight and length: Reaches 60–100 cm in length.

Breeding and culture status: Experimental captive breeding.

Habitat of the fish: Hill streams of Nagaland.

Ornamental quality: Colorful body patterns; benthic behavior.



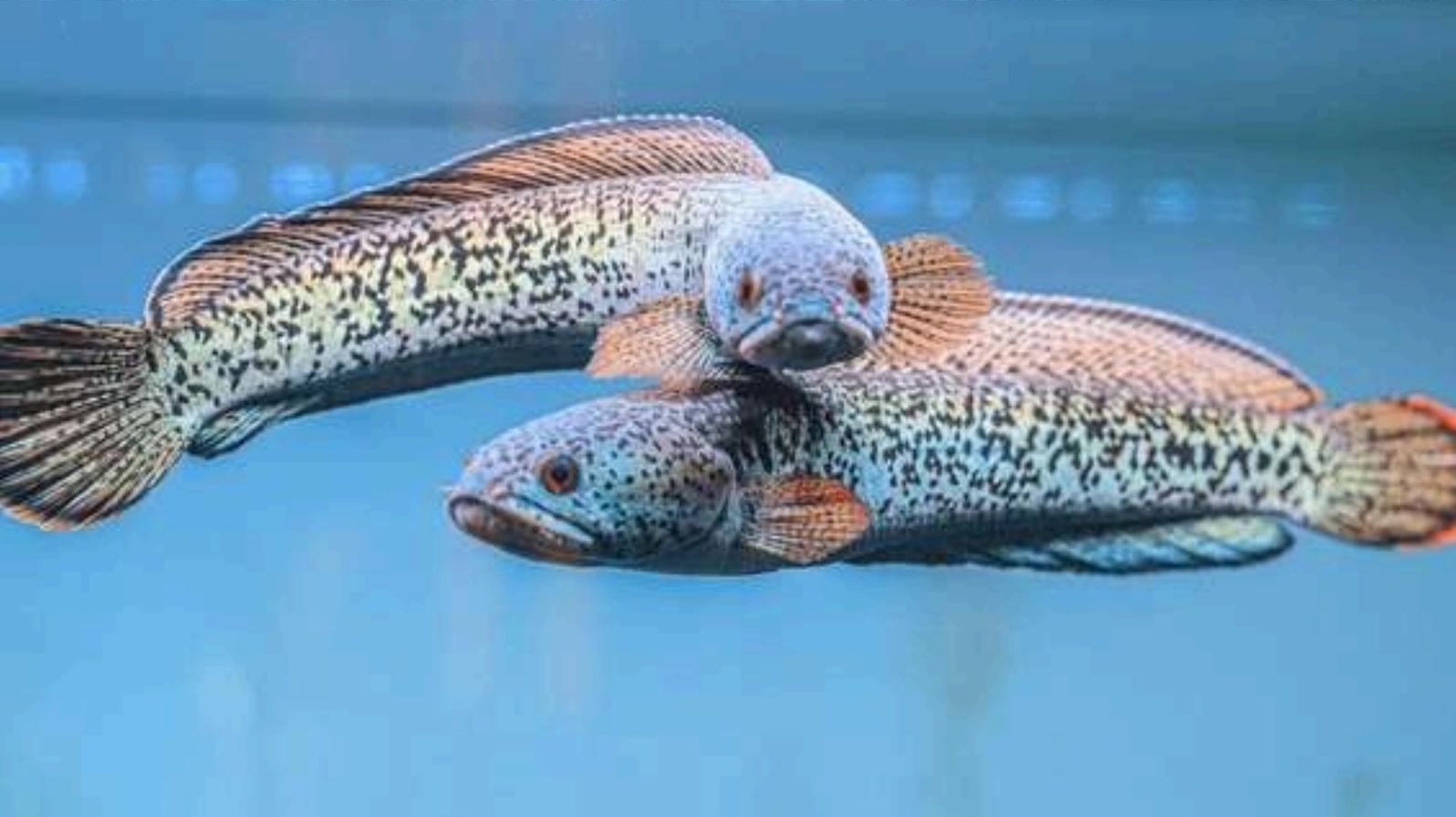
Schistura nagaensis (Nagaland loach)

Ornamental market value: Moderate to high.

Export and domestic market: Exported to Asia and Europe; limited domestic demand.

Market size, weight and length: Reaches 8–12 cm in length.

Breeding and culture status: No captive breeding protocol.



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