

Invasive Species Alert

Oriental Weatherfish

(*Misgurnus anguillicaudatus*)

Established in Michigan

Identification:

- Eel-like body that's brown with greenish grey-brown marbled marking on the dorsal side and pale silver coloration on the ventral side
- small, narrow mouth with thick and fleshy lips and six barbels
- Body length may reach 28 centimeters, but averages are smaller
- Sexually dimorphic, where the female is often longer than the male



Photo by Noel M. Burkhead, U.S. Geological Survey

Habitat: These fish are often found in shallow, low-gradient waters with muddy or silty substrates. They can survive in oxygen-poor waters and through long droughts by burrowing into soft substrates, owing to the intestine acting as an accessory respiratory organ.

Diet: Oriental weatherfish primarily consume small benthic invertebrates and detritus.



Photo by Pamela Woods

Native Range: Eastern Asia

U.S. Distribution: Established in Shiawassee River and lower Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Alabama, California, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Louisiana, Indiana, Oregon, and Washington; Has been collected in Tennessee, North Carolina, and Maryland.

Local Concern: Competition for aquatic insects puts native fish populations at risk. There may also be a significant reduction in macroinvertebrate abundance and an increase in turbidity and nitrogen levels of standing water.

Other Names: Japanese weatherfish, dojo, weather loach, amur weatherfish

Means of Introduction: Aquarium trade, use as a bait fish

Report this species at www.misin.msu.edu or download the MISIN smartphone app and report it from your phone