In Indian waters ariids (Siluriformes/ Ariidae) are represented by 9 genera and 25 valid species. The genus Arius is the most diverse with eight species reported from Indian waters which can be categorised in two broad groups. One having elongated teeth patches with globular teeth comprising of five species- A. jella, A. maculatus, A. gagora, A. malabaricus and A. arius is clubbed under maculatus complex. Other group included species like A. subrostratus, A. sumatranus and A. venosus having smaller teeth patches with villiform teeth (non-maculatus complex) (Dhanze and Jayaram. 1982). The non-maculatus complex does not contribute much to the commercial fishery barring A. subrostratus which forms minor fishery along southwest coast of India. A. subrostratus can be easily differentiated from rest of the con-generic members by smaller barbels and long snout with small mouth. The other two members...
of non-maculatus complex are very similar in appearance and very difficult to separate out from external appearance (Kumar et al., 2015). Both A. sumatranus and A. venosus (Fig 1) are small to medium sized catfishes with smooth to mildly granulated head shield, narrow median longitudinal groove reaching up to the base of supra-occipital process, dorsal fin with prominent filament, body brownish grey on sides and back and lighter below and fins dusky with yellowish to brown tinge. The most contrasting difference between the two species lies in the shape of teeth patch which in triangular in A. venosus and transversely oval in A. sumatranus (Fig. 2). A minor difference in having longer maxillary barbels and shorter snout length is evident in A. venosus. The extent of granulation is even fainter in case of A. venosus (Fig. 3). Both the species are rarely landed especially along northwest coast of India and most often goes unnoticed by the field surveyors and enumerators. In this context, the current pictorial differentiation between the species will help them in easy identification and prompt reporting the species.

![Fig. 2. Teeth patch: a) Triangular in A. venosus; b) Oval in A. sumatranus](image)

![Fig. 3. Head shield: a) A. venosus; b) A. sumatranus](image)

**References**


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**Impact of flashfloods on the cage farms in Kerala**

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Cage fish farmers across the coastal districts of Kerala suffered massive losses in the floods of August, 2018. The flooding and crop loss was also a setback to efforts of iCAR-CMFRI to popularize cage fish farming. The flood waters which completely washed many cages along with the cultured fishes meant loss was in terms of cage structure and nets, harvest ready fishes and juvenile fishes stocked for new cropping in cages. Around eight species of fish were being farmed in cages including the Asian seabass, pearl spot, red snapper, *Caranx* sp. and tilapia. All these died either due to heavy water flow of muddy waters and some escaped from the damaged nets. Many farmers thus lost their entire investments including the cage structure, nets, mooring, fish, seeds etc. The losses varied from 2 to 25 lakh rupees per person depending on the number of cages, fishes stocked and size of the fishes in the cages at the time of disaster.

A rapid damage and loss assessment was done immediately after the flood waters had receded in the affected coastal