



Albino Common Plecostomus (*Hypostomus plecostomus*)

Order: Siluriformes - Family: Loricariidae - Subfamily:



Also known as: Spotted Hypostomus

Type: Tropical—Egg Layers

Origin: *Hypostomus punctatus* is a freshwater fish native to South America, in the coastal drainages of southeastern Brazil.

Description: The Suckermouthed Catfish (*Hypostomus punctatus*) is a tropical fish known as a Plecostomus belonging to the armored sucker-mouth catfish family (Loricariidae). It is one of a number of species commonly referred to as the Common Pleco by aquarists.

Physical Characteristics: Suckermouthed catfish is a species of Loricariidae. Like other members of this family, it has a suckermouth, armor plates, strong dorsal and pectoral fin spines, and the omega iris. *Hypostomus punctatus* is difficult to distinguish from closely related species, such as *Hypostomus plecostomus*. Identification is relatively difficult as there are many different similar species labeled as Common Pleco. This species has a light brown coloration with a pattern of darker brown spots (the last part of its scientific name, *punctatus*, means "spotted"). Because of this, the species may also be known as the Spotted Hypostomus. There is no striping pattern. Also, they are lighter than *H. plecostomus*.

Maximum Size: These fish grow to about 30 centimetres (12 in) 25cm.

Color Form: Usually pale yellow in color.

Sexual dimorphism:

Lifespan: The

Behavior:

Habitat: It is found in the wild in fast-flowing rivers as well as in flooded areas. The Suckermouthed catfish is mainly herbivorous and feeds on algae, detritus as well as plants and roots

Diet: Omnivore - A useful herbivore in an aquarium with algae, the Albino Common Pleco will keep algae under control under normal tank conditions. If no algae are present, supplement with algae wafers and other herbivore preparations.

Breeding: In the wild this fish is an egg layer, but breeding in an aquarium setting has not been successful. The Suckermouthed catfish has not been reported to spawn and breed in aquarium; it is thought to spawn in mud burrows dug into the side of riverbanks in its natural habitat.

Aquarium Setup: The Suckermouthed catfish is a pretty hardy fish. In the aquarium, it is suitable for an appropriately sized community tank, being peaceful to most other fish.

Minimum School Size:

Minimum Tank Size: A larger aquarium of at least 200 liter is recommended to house the Albino Common Pleco. It will get rather large in the aquarium, so provide plenty of room for it to move. Plants, rocks, and driftwood help mirror its natural environment and help give it a sense of security.

Care Level: Easy

Water Conditions: This stream-dweller's preferred water temperature is 22–28°C, pH range is 5–8, and dH range 0.5–25.

Swimming Level: Bottom

Compatibility / Temperament: Peaceful; However, large individuals of this fish are territorial and may be somewhat aggressive to its own kind.

