

Quick guide to freshwater fish families

by Jody Richardson



Galaxiids and mudfishes
Galaxiidae
22 species (plus 4 undescribed)



Eels
Anguillidae
3 species



Are the dorsal, caudal and anal fins united to form a single, continuous fin?

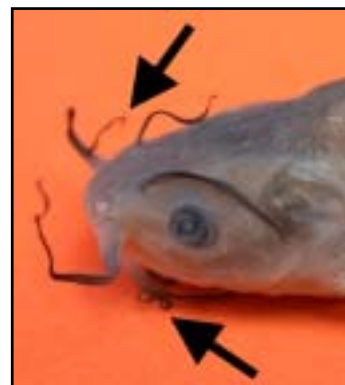
NO

YES

Are there barbels around the mouth?

NO

YES



Catfish
Ameiuridae
1 species

Do the gills have seven openings?

NO

YES



Lamprey
Geotriidae
1 species

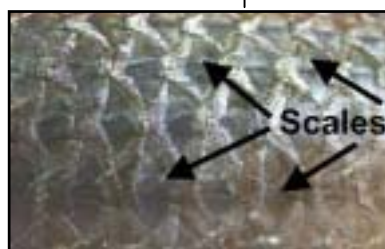
NO

Start



Page 1

Are there visible scales?



YES

Is the fish flat and plate-shaped?

YES

NO



Flounder
Pleuronectidae
1 species

Page 1





Perch
Percidae
1 species



Mullets
Mugilidae
2 species



Does the first dorsal fin have only four spines?

NO YES

YES

Is there only one dorsal fin?

YES



Is the head flat with a dark band between the eyes?

NO



Carps
Cyprinidae
7 species

YES



Torrentfish
Pinguipedidae
1 species

Does the fish have an adipose fin?

YES



Is there a lateral line?

NO



Smelts
Retropinnidae
2 species

YES

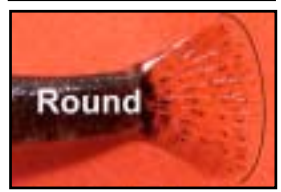
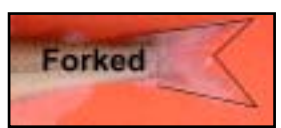


Trouts & salmon
Salmonidae
7 species

Start
Page 2

Is the caudal fin rounded?

YES



Are there one or three dorsal fins?

YES



Live bearers
Poeciliidae
5 species



Estuarine triplefin
Tripterygiidae
1 species

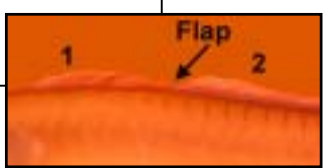
Is there a flap of skin between the two dorsal fins?

NO



Bullies
Eleotridae
7 species

YES



Dart goby
Microdesmidae
1 species