

*Aristichthys nobilis*  
Bighead carp

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[Aristichthys nobilis](#) (Richardson, 1845)

**Family:** [Cyprinidae](#) (Minnows or carps)  
**Order:** [Cypriniformes](#) (carps)  
**Class:** Actinopterygii (ray-finned fishes)  
**FishBase name:** Bighead carp  
**Max. size:** 112 cm TL (male/unsexed; Ref. 40637);  
max. published weight: 21.3 kg (Ref. 40637)



[Point map](#)

**Environment:** benthopelagic; potamodromous (Ref. 51243); freshwater; depth range - 5 m  
**Climate:** temperate; 4 – 26°C; 64°N - 18°S  
**Importance:** fisheries: highly commercial; aquaculture: commercial; aquarium: public aquariums  
**Resilience:** Medium, minimum population doubling time 1.4 - 4.4 years( $K=0.15-0.27$ ;  $t_m=3-5$ )  
**Distribution:** Asia: China. Introduced to numerous countries and has achieved a near global distribution. However, its breeding requirements are very specialized and stocks are maintained by artificial reproduction or continuous importation. Several countries report adverse ecological impact after introduction.  
[Gazetteer](#)  
**Morphology:** Dorsal spines (total): 3 - 3; Dorsal soft rays (total): 7; Anal spines: 1 – 3; Anal soft rays: 12 – 14. Body with numerous scattered small black blotches. Keels extend from pelvic base to anus. Barbels absent. Posterior margin of last simple dorsal ray not serrated. Branched anal rays 13-14.5 (Ref. 13274).  
**Biology:** Occurs in rivers and lakes. Feeds mainly on zooplankton. Bottom feeding fish (Ref. 6459). Marketed fresh and frozen.  
**Red List Status:** [Not in IUCN Red List](#) (Ref. 53964)  
**Dangerous:** potential pest  
**Coordinator:**

**Main Ref:** [Masuda, H., K. Amaoka, C. Araga, T. Uyeno and T. Yoshino. 1984. \(Ref. 559\)](#)