|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ***Ancistrus*** | |
|  | |
| *Ancistrus sp.* | |
| [**Scientific classification**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taxonomy_(biology))**[e](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Template:Taxonomy/Ancistrus)** | |
| Kingdom: | [Animalia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Animal) |
| Phylum: | [Chordata](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chordate) |
| Class: | [Actinopterygii](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Actinopterygii) |
| Order: | [Siluriformes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catfish) |
| Family: | [Loricariidae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Loricariidae) |
| Tribe: | [Ancistrini](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancistrini) |
| Genus: | *Ancistrus* [Kner](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rudolf_Kner), 1854 |
| [**Type species**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Type_species) | |
| *Hypostomus cirrhosus*  Valenciennes, 1836 | |

**ANCISTRUS PLECO**

***Ancistrus*** is a [genus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genus) of [nocturnal freshwater fish](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Freshwater_fish) in the [family](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Family_(biology)) [Loricariidae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Loricariidae" \o "Loricariidae) of order [Siluriformes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siluriformes" \o "Siluriformes), native to freshwater habitats in [South America](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_America) and [Panama](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Panama). Fish of this genus are common in the [aquarium](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aquarium) trade where they are known as **bushynose** or **bristlenose catfish**. In the aquarium hobby they are often referred to as bushynose or bristlenose plecos instead, but this may lead to confusion as "pleco" usually is used for *[Hypostomus plecostomus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hypostomus_plecostomus" \o "Hypostomus plecostomus)* and its allies and is often used as a catchall term for any loricariids remotely resembling that species.

*Ancistrus* species show all the typical features of the Loricariidae. This includes a body covered in bony plates and a ventral [suckermouth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suckermouth).[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancistrus#cite_note-Sabaj-3) The feature most commonly associated with the genus are the fleshy tentacles found on the head in adult males; females may possess tentacles along the snout margin but they are smaller and they lack tentacles on the head.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancistrus#cite_note-Sabaj-3) *Tentacules*, tentacles directly associated with [odontodes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Odontode" \o "Odontode), develop on the [pectoral fin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pectoral_fin) spine of the males of some species.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancistrus#cite_note-Sabaj-3) Males also have evertible cheek odontodes which are less developed or absent in females. They also lack odontodes along the snout.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancistrus#cite_note-Armbruster-2) In comparison with a typical loricariid (pleco), a bristlenose is typically shorter (4–6 inches or 15 cm or less), more flattened and fatter with a comparatively wider head.