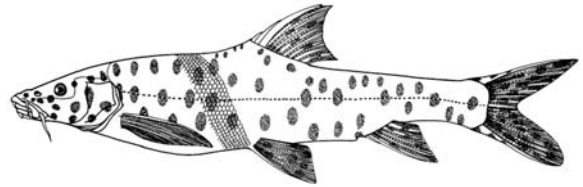


Threatened fishes of the world: *Luciobarbus subquincunciatus* (Günther, 1868) (Cyprinidae)

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Common name: abou khazzama, a'djzan, nabish (Arabic), solimani, sos mahi (Farsi), bıyıklı balık, komando balığı, benekli barbus (Turkish); leopard barbel, spot barb, Mesopotamian barbel (E). **Conservation status:** Extirpated in the southern marshes of Iraq (Italy–Iraq 2006); almost disappeared in Syria (FAO 2007); rare in Turkish Tigris (Ünlü 2006); occasional in commercial catches in Iran, only six fish caught in 1990s, “critically endangered” (M. Ramin, personal communication 2000). **Identification:** Originally described in *Barbus*. Uniquely characterised by the quincunx-like pattern of spots. Branched dorsal fin rays 8, branched anal fin rays 5, lateral line scales 75–88. Inner pharyngeal teeth molariform, formula 2,3,3-3,3,2. Maximum length 60 cm. Illustration by Susan Laurie-Bourque. **Distribution:** Found in the Tigris-Euphrates basin of Turkey, Syria, Iraq and Iran. **Habitat and ecology:** Favours lentic, high oxygen habitats but may occur in reservoirs. Molluscivore based on teeth but also takes algae and detritus. **Reproduction:** Spawns in shallow gravel beds in April–May in Turkish Tigris River (Ünlü 2006). **Threats:** Use as food, habitat loss, eutrophication, dam construction and water abstraction. **Conservation**



actions: Adults so rare in Iran aquaculture not feasible and fish released. **Conservation recommendations:** Surveys to determine spawning sites for protection.

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