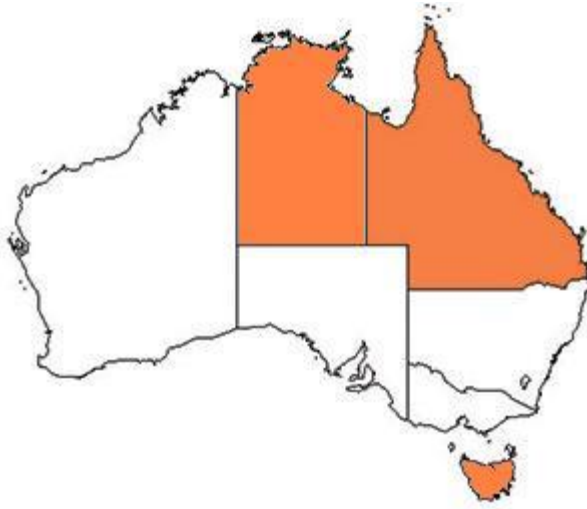


Enteric Septicaemia of Catfish (ESC)

Disease agent: *Edwardsiella ictaluri*, a gram negative bacterium from the family Enterobacteriaceae.



Presence in Australia: **Endemic**



Presence in Queensland: **Endemic**

Enteric Septicaemia of Catfish has been reported in ornamental fishes held in quarantine and some ornamental fish farms in Queensland, Tasmania and the Northern Territory. *Edwardsiella ictaluri* was also detected at a prevalence of 40% in apparently healthy freshwater catfish *Tandanus tropicanus* sampled at one site in the Tully River in northern Queensland.

Signs of Disease:

Fish infected with this bacteria may exhibit the following signs:



- affected fish are lethargic and listless with occasional chaotic swimming
- swelling on top of the head progressing into ulceration (hole in the head)
- swollen abdomen due to fluid accumulation (ascites)
- bleeding ulcers at the base of fins, around the mouth, on the operculum
- red swollen anus with trailing faeces
- popeye (exophthalmos)



Enteric Septicaemia of Catfish:

Top. Cranial ulcers (= hole in the head) common in chronic enteric septicaemia of catfish.

Bottom. In chronic infections, lesions occasionally occur in the joints of the pectoral or dorsal spines.

Photos: LA Hanson

Host Species affected may include:

Barramundi Catfish (all)

Imported seafood fishes including:

Basa /*Pangasius* Channel catfish
Chinook salmon Rainbow trout

Ornamental fishes including:

Catfishes (all) Rosy Barbs
Danios Siamese fighting fish
Zebrafish

At risk fisheries in QLD may include:

East Coast Inshore Finfish Fishery
Gulf of Carpentaria Inshore Finfish Fishery

Introduction Pathways to avoid:

Do not use imported seafood or ornamental fish for bait or berley, and do not release ornamental fish into waterways.

Basic decontamination information:

This disease agent can be inactivated by the following treatments: Dessication (drying out), 50 mg/L sodium hypochlorite (bleach) for 1 minute, 50 mg/L iodine for 1 minute, 30% ethanol for 1 minute and salt (>3 ppt).

What to do if this disease is suspected:

If you suspect this disease is present please contact the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (13 25 23) or the National 24 hr Emergency Animal Disease Hotline (1800 675 888) immediately.

How to collect and store samples for diagnosis:

If you are taking samples to help authorities to test for this disease, whole fish should be provided alive (if possible) or chilled and on ice (but not frozen).

Learn more

For more information about ESC and other diseases of aquatic animals of significance to Australia, download the **Aquatic Disease Field Guide App** available for iOS, android and windows devices at these locations:

IOS<https://goo.gl/9UJNp9>**ANDROID**<https://goo.gl/T4Tn1X>**WINDOWS**<https://goo.gl/Y8Vibj>

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