

## First confirmed record of the Tigris cat, *Glyptothorax cous* (Linnaeus, 1766) in southern Iraq

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### Abstract

The Tigris cat, *Glyptothorax cous* (Linnaeus, 1766) (seven specimens) was collected from lower part of the Tigris River in Al-Qurna district, southern Iraq. The current report represents the new record for Tigris cat in the south of Iraq. *G. cous* is characterized by having a flat head, small adipose fin, head, back and flank usually have large, bony, striated and elongated tubercles.

**Keywords:** New occurrence, Tigris cat, south of Iraq.

### Introduction

The family Sisoridae contains 25 genera and 284 species, is distributed in Asia, from the Tigris-Euphrates basin (Turkey, Syria, Iraq and Iran) to South China and Borneo (Froese and Pauly, 2025). *Glyptothorax* Blyth, 1860 is the most species-rich and widely distributed genus in the family, typically inhabited in fast-flowing hill streams or faster-flowing reaches of larger rivers (Sayyadzadeh *et al.*, 2022). It is distinguished from all other sisorid genera by having an adhesive apparatus on the thorax with grooves parallel or oblique to the longitudinal axis of the body (Thomson and Page, 2006). According to Freyhof *et al.* (2021), there are six sisorid species in the Euphrates and Tigris drainages, *Glyptothorax armeniacus* is endemic to streams in the Euphrates drainage, *G. cous* is spread in both the Euphrates and Tigris drainages, *G. daemon* from the Greater Zab and Yanarsu in the upper Tigris drainage, *G. kurdistanicus* is endemic to the upper Tigris downstream to the Lesser Zab drainage, *G. silviae* is endemic to Iran, *G. steindachneri* is spread in both the Euphrates and Tigris drainages.

South of Iraq is affected by fluctuating environmental conditions, with climate change, rising temperatures, and decreasing river waters, in addition to water quality problems (Chabuk *et al.*, 2020). The presence of Sisorid catfishes in southern Iraq is very rare. A study by Jawad *et al.* (2009) indicated a new record of *G. kurdistanicus* from the lower reaches of the Tigris River from Thiqr Province, after collecting a single specimen. Abdullah (2015) indicated the presence of *Glyptothorax* sp. in the lower part

