

Badis limaakumi: A Chameleon fish

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A new **Badis** fish species called “***Badis limaakumi***” has recently been discovered in the **Milak river** of **Nagaland**.



[ref-east mojo]

About the *Badis limaakumi*:

- The *Badis limaakumi* is a fish that appears **black** in its **natural habitat** but undergoes **color change** when it is placed in a different **environment**.
- It is locally known as “**Tepdang**” or “**Akngashi** (Chungli)” or “**Aokngatsü** (Mongsen)” or “**Sempi**” etc.
- It is similar to the to ***Badis assamensis*** belonging to Assam as it had a dark black blotch on its gills.
 - The only **difference** between them is that ***Badis limaakumi*** completely lacked a **series** of **blotches** on the body, which is present in the ***Badis assamensis***.
- The ***Badis limaakumi*** is one of the largest **Badis species**, the other being ***Badis assamensis***.

Appearance:

- It has **large** and **slender** body.
- It has **absence** of **blotches** on **sides**, **fins**, and the **cleithrum**.
- It has many **lateral-line scales**.

About the *Badis species*:

- It is a **genus** of **small freshwater** fish belonging to the **family Badidae**.
- Fishes from the **Badis species** are also called **Chameleon fish** due to their ability to change **colour rapidly** when **breeding**, when wanting to **blend** into their **surroundings** or when they are stressed.
- There are about **25 recognized badis species** in the world where 15 of them belongs to India.
- They are present throughout the **South Asia**, where it is commonly found in heavily vegetated **ditches**, **ponds**, slow-flowing **streams**, and **swamps**.