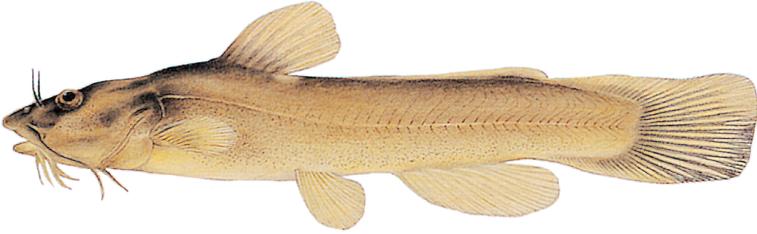


## Stonecat

*Noturus flavus*



**Similar Species:** None common in South Dakota

**Identification:** Small slender catfish, adipose fin connected to tail forming squarish fin at back, lower lip and chin without dark pigment, light blotch on back just before dorsal fin.

The stonecat is distributed across much of the northern Mississippi River basin, including the Missouri River basin in South Dakota. The stonecat inhabits rivers and streams and prefers riffle areas with rocky bottoms. Stonecats have been found in the Missouri River in strong current over sand substrate. They are active at night, feeding on immature stages of various riffle-dwelling insects. Eggs are deposited in a compact cluster beneath flat stones and are protected by one of the parents. In the Vermillion River, South Dakota, stonecats have been known to live up to 7 years, attaining lengths of about 8 inches.

