

# Mountain Madtom

*Noturus eleutherus*



<http://www.cnr.vt.edu/efish/families/mtnmadtom.html>

## Characteristics

- robust body w/ relatively deep caudal peduncle w/ dark brown bar on base of caudal fin
- front edge of first dark saddle at dorsal spine; dorsal fin dark at front & base; clear at edge)
- long pectoral spine w/ 6-10 prominent saw-like teeth on rear edge & large teeth on front (as in northern madtom)
- rear edge of adipose fin nearly free from caudal fin
- dark band on adipose irregular in outline & confined to lower half of fin (vs. brindled)
- brown-gray above; dark mottling; 4 vague saddles; usually no belly specks (vs. northern)

## Ecology and Distribution

- rocky riffles & runs of small to large rivers
- mainly in French Creek main stem & large tributaries
- secretive, often overlooked species in surveys

