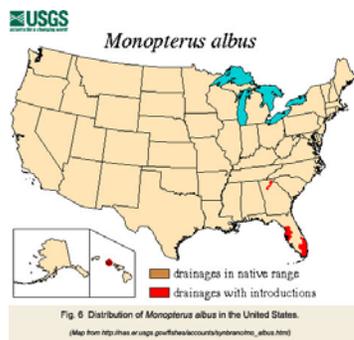


# Asian Swamp Eel

## *Monopterus albus*

**Identification** Elongate or snake-like body with no noticeable scales or fins; short head and small teeth; body and head are dark, sometimes dark olive or brown above, but lighter, often light orange below; may be brightly colored with yellow, black, and gold spots over a light tan or almost-white background.

**Why is it a Problem?** Highly adaptable with a voracious appetite, this species can decimate local aquatic and wetland ecosystems.



**Range/Habitat** Have been found in Florida, Georgia, and Hawaii; not yet found in Maryland.

*Want to know more? Check out [www.dnr.maryland.gov](http://www.dnr.maryland.gov) for more on invasive species in Maryland and what you can do about it.*

**Similar Species** May be confused with a number of native animals, including the native American eel, as well as several snake-like amphibians

**Legal Status** Prohibited from import, transport, sale, purchase and possession in Maryland.

**Method of Introduction** Possibly escaped from aquarium or from fish farm/market release

**Control and Prevention** Do not bring live Asian swamp eels into Maryland.