



Threats and Opportunities from Invasive Suckermouth Armoured Catfishes (SACs): Implications in Achieving the Philippine Millennium Development Goals

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Abstract: The Philippines has signified its commitment to achieve by 2015 the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDG). However, the Philippines is currently faced with a potential challenge that imperils the realization of its commitments; and this challenge is the invasion by suckermouth armoured catfishes (SACs) a.k.a the janitor fish. SACs are good habitat modifiers that can cause an imbalance in its new environment. This imbalance could result in the extinction of existing species, and compromise the availability of food and potable water. These results could threaten the achievement of the Philippine MDGs on environmental sustainability, and eradication of extreme poverty and hunger. In spite of this, poor Filipino families have come to accept that SACs are free food. And with the acceptability of SACs as food, are they really a threat or a resource that affords opportunities for the poor and the impoverished? This Challenge Grant seeks to answer this overarching question by explaining the biology, chemistry and socio-educational peculiarities of SACs and its invasion of Philippine freshwater systems.