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.