

# Clarence galaxias

*Galaxias johnstoni*



*Found only in the upper Clarence River catchment and parts of the upper Derwent and Nive catchments. It is now reduced to six isolated populations.*

**Description:** A small tube shaped fish with a stout build and a blunt head. The anal fin starts below the middle of the dorsal fin. As with all Galaxias they don't have scales.

**Colour:** Adults are dark brown on the back with bars and blotches on the sides. The belly is a silver-yellow colour. Young fish are lightly coloured. They develop adult colouration from 40 mm in length. Numerous black spots (parasites) are often visible.

**Size:** Adults are greater than 70 mm in length, but can grow up to 140 mm.

**Habitat:** Lives in stream, marsh and lake habitats where brown trout are not present. Young fish prefer open water while the adults live near the river or lake/lagoon bed and amongst cover.

**Diet:** Larvae feed on planktonic crustaceans while adult fish prefer to browse the bottom for crustaceans and insects.

**Life Cycle:** Only lives in freshwater. Spawning takes place during Spring. Eggs are deposited on rocks in the lower reaches of streams. Hatching occurs after one to two months and the larvae form schools in the open water. At around 40 mm they start to colour and move to adult habitat. They live for at least four years.

**Distribution status:** Endemic.

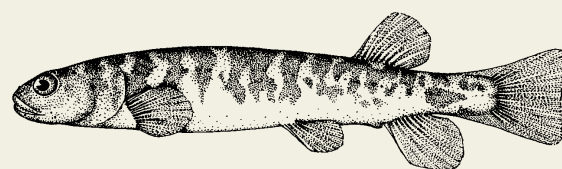
**Original range:** Possibly widespread in the upper Derwent, Clarence and Nive river systems.

**Reasons for change to distribution:** Predation and competition from brown trout; disturbance to riparian vegetation and instream habitat.

**Legal status:** **Endangered** (State and Commonwealth lists).

**Can it be taken?** This species is protected and may not be taken without a permit.

**Other Names:** N/A.



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