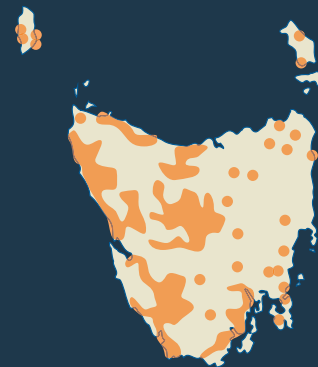


# Climbing galaxias

*Galaxias brevipinnis*



*Widespread in coastal drainages as well as numerous landlocked populations in lakes throughout Tasmania.*

**Description:** A tube shaped, medium sized fish that have a single dorsal fin on their back. The anal fin starts behind where the dorsal fin starts. They have large pectoral and pelvic fins that they use to 'climb'. As with all Galaxias they don't have scales.

**Colour:** Colour and patterns are variable, with bands or irregular patches and blotches. Generally medium to dark brown with a lighter belly. A gold sheen can be seen on the back and sides.

**Size:** Commonly from 80 to 160 mm, can grow up to 290 mm.

**Habitat:** Adult fish are secretive and solitary when living in the lower reaches of the rivers. They also live in streams with riffles and cascades, where they can be found under rocks. Young fish can be found in large schools around lake margins and near the mouths of tributaries.

**Diet:** Feeds on a wide range of aquatic invertebrates, but also terrestrial insects taken from the water surface.

**Life Cycle:** They are capable of migrating over vertical barriers. River populations spawn during Autumn. The larvae are swept to sea and return six months later as part of the whitebait run during Spring. Landlocked populations breed during Spring.

**Distribution status:** Native.

**Original range:** Native to Tasmania, south-east Australia and New Zealand.

**Reasons for change to distribution:** They have increased their range due to the damming of some river systems.

**Legal status:** **Whitebait.**

**Can it be taken?** This species may not be taken without a licence or a permit (for purposes other than fishing). Young fish are often found in whitebait runs, for which there is a restricted recreational season requiring a Whitebait Licence.

**Other Names:** Broad-finned galaxias.



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