

# Pedder galaxias

*Galaxias pedderensis*



*Destruction of the original habitat led to predation and competition by introduced species. The species persists as breeding populations in translocated localities.*

**Description:** A medium sized fish with a slender elongated body and a flattish head. They have a single dorsal fin on their back and the tail fin is slightly forked. The front edge of the anal fin is behind the midpoint of the dorsal fin. Upper and lower jaws are equal in size. As with all Galaxias they don't have scales.

**Colour:** Green-brown, the back and sides are covered with distinct but irregular dark blotches extending to the bases of the dorsal, tail and anal fins. The belly is off-white. Gold iridescence is a feature of this species.

**Size:** Adults usually range in length from 75 to 120 mm, recorded up to 160 mm.

**Habitat:** Prior to the inundation of Lake Pedder, young fish could be seen swimming around the lake shores in large schools. Adults preferred rock and boulder habitat and were found amongst cover in streams entering the lake. The last individuals were collected in 1996 from these streams.

**Diet:** Feeds on small aquatic invertebrates and terrestrial insects .

**Life Cycle:** Spawning occurs during Spring as water temperatures begin to rise. Eggs are laid under rocks, aquatic vegetation and submerged woody debris. Breeding first occurs from three years of age. It is likely that the original lake served as a nursery area for the larvae and young fish, which live in open water.

**Distribution status:** Endemic.

**Original range:** Originally found in Lake Pedder before it was flooded. It persisted in the dammed Lake Pedder for a couple of decades, last found there in the late 1990s.

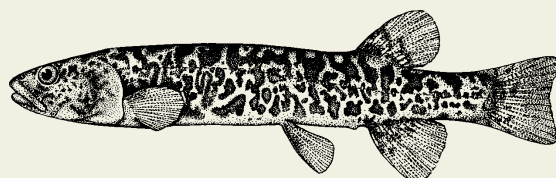
**Reasons for change to distribution:**

Destruction of the original habitat led to predation and competition by introduced species. The species persists as breeding populations in the translocated localities.

**Legal status: Endangered, Extinct in the wild** (State and Commonwealth lists respectively).

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

**Other names:** N/A.



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