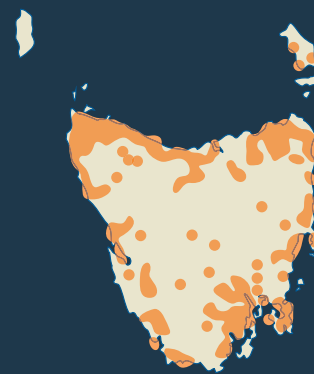


Sandy

Pseudaphritis urvillii



This species is common and widespread in coastal streams around the state, and can move considerable distances upstream.

Description: An elongated, cylinder shaped fish. They have two dorsal fins, the first is short whilst the second is long and low. The eyes are set close together and located almost on top of the head. They have moderate sized scales.

Colour: Colour is variable depending on substrate. The body is usually dark brown on the back, breaking into blotches on the sides with a white to yellow belly.

Size: Commonly from 100 to 240 mm, but up to 350 mm.

Habitat: Primarily a bottom dweller preferring slow moving lowland coastal streams, often found partially buried in leaf litter and debris or sand. Also found amongst rocks, sunken logs and overhanging banks. They are capable of rapid bursts of swimming if disturbed.

Diet: Their diet consists of insect larvae, worms, small crustaceans and fish. Some plant material is also consumed.

Life Cycle: Adult fish migrate from the upper reaches down to the estuaries during Spring to breed. Adult fish then migrate back upstream. Young fish are more abundant in the lower reaches, with the adults more common further upstream. They live to at least five years of age.

Distribution status: Native.

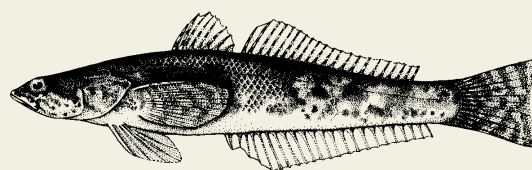
Original range: Found in most coastal streams around Tasmania. Found in south eastern mainland Australia.

Reasons for change to distribution: May be reduced range in rivers that have weirs or other man made barriers.

Legal status: Angling.

Can it be taken? This species may not be taken without an inland recreational Angling Licence or a permit (for purposes other than fishing). It is often used as bait in the estuaries (the only place fish baits are permitted) for sea run brown trout.

Other names: Freshwater flathead, congolli, roach, pike.



BL12080