

Spotted galaxias

Galaxias truttaceus



Common and widespread in coastal drainages as well as numerous landlocked populations in inland lakes.

Description: Small elongated fish that have a single soft-rayed dorsal fin on their back. The anal fin origin begins behind the dorsal fin origin. As with all Galaxias they don't have scales.

Colour: Colour pattern is variable depending on habitat and location, but generally adults have regular small spots with surrounding halos on their sides, and black edges on their dorsal, pelvic and anal fins. They have a distinct stripe through and below the eyes. Body colour varies from black on the back with brown sides to a dark purplish colour all over.

Size: Commonly from 70 to 140 mm, but up to 200 mm.

Habitat: Riverine populations appear to prefer lower elevation in quiet streams where they are found in pools with cover from log debris, overhanging banks and boulders. Landlocked lake populations are often at higher elevations. Young fish will form schools that are often seen in late summer.

Diet: A carnivorous fish feeding on a wide range of aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates.

Life Cycle: In riverine populations spawning takes place during Autumn. They are believed to spawn amongst emergent vegetation below the water surface. The larvae are swept to sea and return five to six months later as part of the whitebait run during Spring. Landlocked populations breed during Spring.

Distribution status: Native.

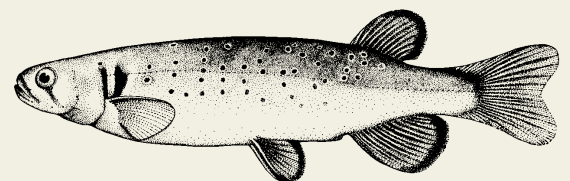
Original range: Populations occur in Western Australia where they are threatened. Also widely distributed in Victoria and Tasmania with some populations just over the South Australian border and one population in NSW.

Reasons for change to distribution: The introduction of trout and redfin perch has reduced the extent of their range. Weirs and dams also restrict their ability to migrate up 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: Spotted mountain trout.



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