

Eastern dwarf galaxias

Galaxiella pusilla



Far north-east coast, Flinders Island and the north-west coast.

Description: A small, thin fish that has a single soft-rayed dorsal fin. The dorsal fin origin is slightly behind the anal fin origin. Like Galaxias and Paragalaxias species they don't have scales.

Colour: Both sexes are brownish green to orange on top with a silver white belly. Males have three black horizontal bands with an orange stripe between the two lower bands. Females have a golden horizontal stripe.

Size: Females to 40 mm, males to 34 mm.

Habitat: Adults occur in still or slow moving waters. They can be found in the shallows around the margins of creeks, drains and swamps that are heavily overgrown with aquatic plants. Can burrow into the mud during unfavourable conditions. Young fish school at the water surface in pools free of vegetation. They are generally active throughout the day.

Diet: They are carnivorous feeding on small crustaceans from the water column as well as other invertebrates from the bottom.

Life Cycle: Spawning occurs during early Spring, when eggs are deposited on aquatic plants, stones and leaves. It is believed they live for only one year, with the adults dying after spawning.

Distribution status: Native.

Original range: Native to north-east and north-west Tasmania, Flinders Island and parts of south-east Australia.

Reasons for change to distribution:

Drainage of large areas of swamp and wetlands; Channelisation of rivers and streams; Removal of aquatic and riparian vegetation; Interaction and predation from introduced fish species; Inundation of habitat by dams.

Legal status: **Rare/Vulnerable** (State and Commonwealth lists).

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

Other Names: Dwarf galaxias, little galaxias.



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