

Great Lake paragalaxias

Paragalaxias electroides



Found in Great Lake, Shannon and Penstock lagoons in the Central Plateau.

Description: A small stout fish with a blunt head. Eyes are small, high on head and close together. Dorsal fin is long and rounded. The tail is not forked. As with all Paragalaxias they don't have scales.

Colour: Gold brown in colour with irregular brown speckled patches becoming less distinct down the sides, no obvious bands. The under-surface is pale yellow to white. Fins are a clear golden colour with black speckling along the rays.

Size: Grows up to 59 mm in length, more commonly to 40 mm.

Habitat: Lives on the lake floor among cover which includes rocks, debris and weed beds.

Diet: Feeds on aquatic insects and insect larvae, planktonic crustaceans, eggs of other galaxiids and some algae.

Life Cycle: The whole life cycle is completed in fresh water. Spawning occurs during Spring with females producing 45-150 eggs of 1.8-2.0 mm in diameter. The eggs are guarded until larvae hatch. Maturity is reached after the first year. It is likely that they only live for two years.

Distribution status: Endemic.

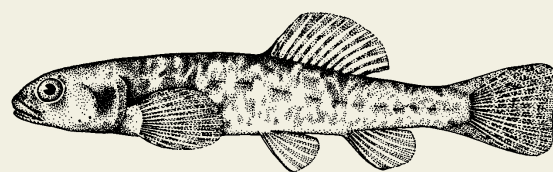
Original range: May have been found throughout lagoons and marshes of the upper Shannon River catchment.

Reasons for change to distribution: Water level changes in Great Lake can effect their abundance due to migrating weed beds. They may be eaten by trout.

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

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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