

Pygmy perch

Nannoperca australis



Found across northern Tasmania in rivers draining north.

Description: A small deep bodied fish, which is distinctly scaled. They have one deeply notched dorsal fin and a notch on the outside of their operculum (gill plate or cover).

Colour: Brown along the back and sides and golden yellow underneath. They have irregular dark brown blotches along the side with hints of red.

Size: Commonly to 65 mm, but up to 100 mm.

Habitat: Generally found in small loose schools in weedy, slow flowing or still waters. Habitats include streams, off-stream ponds and irrigation ditches. They prefer cover to open water and are rarely found in fast flowing stretches of streams.

Diet: A carnivorous fish, eating crustaceans, aquatic and terrestrial insects.

Life Cycle: Breeding occurs during Spring or early Summer when water temperatures are over 16°C. May spawn multiple times. The males become territorial of their breeding site while the female randomly lays several hundred eggs scattered on the bottom. The eggs hatch after two to four days. Young fish reach sexual maturity in their first year. They can live for more than five years, but most fish are typically one or two years old. Their whole life cycle is spent in fresh water.

Distribution status: Native.

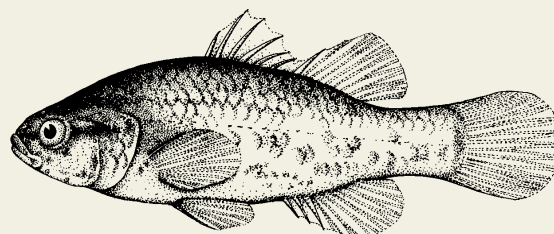
Original range: Found in inland areas of south-eastern Australia including Tasmania.

Reasons for change to distribution: Range reduced in mainland Australia, particularly in the Murray Darling basin where, in the southern parts, they were once widespread.

Legal status: **Not listed as Threatened.**

Can it be taken? This species may not be taken without a permit.

Other names: Southern pygmy perch.



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