

Saddled galaxias

Galaxias tanycephalus



Endemic to the marshes and tributaries of the upper Lake River including Gunns and Little Lakes.

Description: A stout bodied, medium sized fish with a long head tapering to a slender snout. The mouth is large and reaches back level with the eyes; jaws are equal in size. Fins are well developed and rather thick and fleshy at the base. The tail is distinctly forked. As with all Galaxias they don't have scales.

Colour: Green-olive on back with saddle-like dark green bars across the back and sides; the belly is silvery olive. It can sometimes be spotted rather than barred. Fins are olive to amber without black fringes. Black dots that are parasites are often present.

Size: Reaches 150 mm, but usually less than 70 mm in length.

Habitat: Can be found among boulders and aquatic plants around the margins of the lakes. Larval stages live in the open water.

Diet: Adults diet consists of crustaceans (both planktonic and benthic) plus some aquatic insects. Larvae eat planktonic crustaceans.

Life Cycle: The life cycle is confined to freshwater. Very small larvae can be seen at Woods Lake year round, suggesting an extended spawning season with a Summer peak. Few large specimens are found and most individuals appear to be less than two years old.

Distribution status: Endemic.

Original range: Upper Lake River.

Reasons for change to distribution:

Predation by brown trout (*Salmo trutta*); nutrient enrichment of Woods Lake; changing water levels in the lakes due to hydro and irrigation use.

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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