

Shannon paragalaxias

Paragalaxias dissimilis



Found only in Great Lake, Shannon Lagoon, Penstock Lagoon and the headwaters of the Shannon River. The Shannon and Penstock lagoons are artificial impoundments and these populations may have originated from Great Lake.

Description: A small bullet-shaped fish with a long, slightly flattened head and long snout. The dorsal fin is rounded and quite long with its origin above the pelvic fins. The tail is forked. As with all *Paragalaxias* they don't have scales.

Colour: Dark grey to black colouration over the back and sides. Markings are a series of dark bands and blotches extending down the sides, whilst the under side is greyish-white. The fins have no markings. The small black dots that may be present are parasites.

Size: Can grow up to 75 mm, but commonly 50 mm long.

Habitat: Adults are found during the day in cover around the lake margins under rocks, debris or vegetation. They are nocturnal and emerge at night to feed in mid-water.

Diet: The diet consists of a wide range of aquatic invertebrates particularly midge, caddis larvae and various crustaceans.

Life Cycle: The whole life cycle is completed in freshwater. Spawning occurs during Summer and the eggs are deposited under rocks around the lake margins. The eggs take several weeks to develop. Upon hatching, the larvae are 8.5 mm long. The larvae live in open water for about six months before joining the adults in the lake shallows. Both sexes mature at the end of their first year and live up to three years of age.

Distribution status: Endemic.

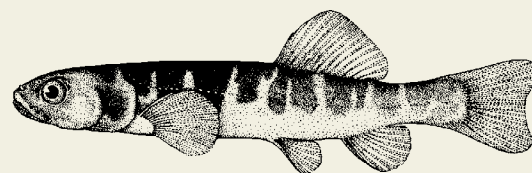
Original range: The Shannon River.

Reasons for change to distribution: Water level changes in Great Lake impact on their distribution and abundance. Predation by trout in Shannon and Penstock lagoons and the Shannon River would affect their distribution and abundance downstream of Great Lake.

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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