

Swan galaxias

Galaxias fontanus



Found in a few isolated headwater streams of the Swan, Macquarie and South Esk River catchments that are brown trout and redfin perch free.

Description: A small elongated fish with a broad flattened head. The dorsal fin starts above the vent and the tail fin is only slightly forked. The pectoral fins are small, and fins have no markings. As with all Galaxias they don't have scales.

Colour: Light olive-green on the back with paler silver white on the underside. The sides are covered with dense irregular bandings and small blotches.

Size: Generally around 100 mm in length, but may grow up to 135 mm.

Habitat: The Swan galaxias is a purely stream dwelling species. It is found in headwater streams with good riparian (stream side) vegetation. They often form schools in open water; particularly the young fish which makes them vulnerable to predation by introduced fish.

Diet: Swan galaxias are opportunistic carnivores, feeding on a wide range of terrestrial and aquatic invertebrates.

Life Cycle: The Swan galaxias spawns during Spring within the normal adult habitat. The larvae develop over a five week period and prefer shallow, slow flowing water. Young fish are pale and begin to develop adult colouration at around 35 mm in length.

Distribution status: Endemic.

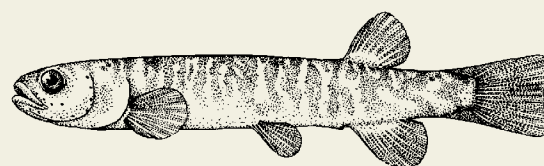
Original range: Possibly once widespread throughout South Esk River catchment.

Reasons for change to distribution: Range reduced by predation from introduced brown trout and redfin perch. Habitat loss may also have played a role.

Legal status: **Endangered** (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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