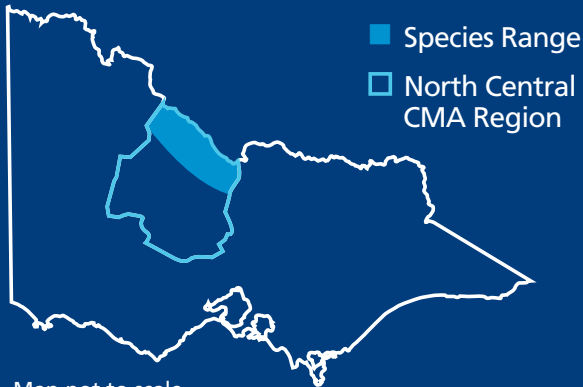


Southern Purple-spotted Gudgeon (*Mogurnda adspersa*)

Tail fin shape



Map not to scale



Photo Gunther Schmida

Family: Eleotridae

Other common names: None known

Description: The Purple-spotted Gudgeon is an attractive fish; it is robust and has a rounded head and a small mouth. The back is usually dark purplish-brown to yellowish-brown, however, can be iridescent with darker blotches of blue towards the tail. The belly is a light brown to creamy colour. Dark blotches with red and white spots are present on the side. The adult can grow to 120 mm (maximum size is about 152 mm).

Fins: The dorsal, pelvic, pectoral and anal fins are present. The tail is slightly rounded.

Habitat: Rivers, creeks and billabongs, usually found in quiet or slow flowing sections over rocks or among vegetation.

Conservation status & distribution: This species is listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*. In the Murray-Darling Basin it has undergone a significant decline.

Breeding: Spawning occurs in summer when water temperatures exceed 20°C. Males reach maturity at 45 mm and females at 49 mm. When eggs are released, the male guards and fans the eggs.

Eggs: Females deposit several batches of between 280-1,300 adhesive eggs on rocks, logs or solid surfaces. The eggs are elongate and transparent. Hatching occurs after three to nine days.

Diet: The diet consists of small fish, aquatic invertebrates, worms and tadpoles.

Threats: It is believed that interaction with alien species such as the Redfin Perch and Eastern Gambusia, and river regulation are major causes of the species decline.

Interesting facts and features: None known

Spawning time

Jan

Feb

Mar

Apr

May

Jun

Jul

Aug

Sep

Oct

Nov

Dec

The North Central Catchment Management Authority acknowledges Aboriginal Traditional Owners within the region, their rich culture and spiritual connection to Country. We also recognise and acknowledge the contribution and interest of Aboriginal people and organisations in land and natural resource management.

The information on this Fact Sheet is extracted from the North Central Waterwatch Fish Field Guide. Please visit the North Central Catchment Management Authority website, www.nccma.vic.gov.au for more information.

