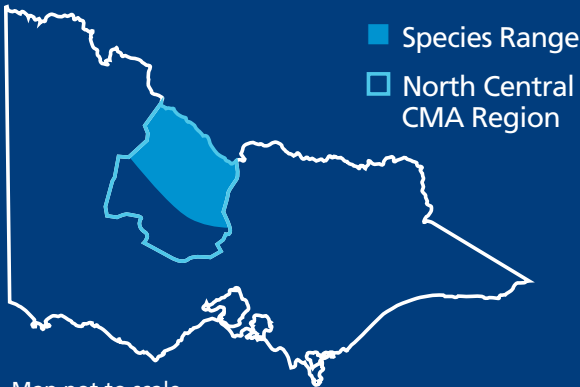


Carp Gudgeon species complex (*Hypseleotris spp*)

Tail fin shape



Map not to scale



Photo Gunther Schmida

Family: Anguillidae

Other common names: None known

Description: Genetic studies of Carp Gudgeon have shown that at least four taxa are present, as well as a range of hybrids. In this booklet, Carp Gudgeons are treated as a group.

All Carp Gudgeons are small and laterally compressed, with a blunt head. Scales are present. Their body can be yellowish-grey to greenish-brown. The adult size is usually around 40 mm (maximum size is about 70 mm).

Fins: Anal, pectoral and two dorsal fins are present. The tail is slightly rounded.

Habitat: This group of species can be found in slow flowing or still waters, normally with aquatic vegetation.

Conservation status & distribution: Widespread and abundant. Commonly this group of Gudgeons is found in mid to low altitudes in the central and southern Murray-Darling Basin. Carp Gudgeon can also be found in coastal streams from New South Wales to central Queensland.

Breeding: Spawning occurs in shallow water when temperatures reach approximately 22°C. The male guards and fans the eggs.

Eggs: Up to 2,000 small (0.5 mm in diameter), adhesive eggs are deposited onto submerged aquatic vegetation or twigs. Hatching occurs within two days.

Diet: Copepods, aquatic insects, cladocerans and ostracods, and chironomids are most frequently consumed.

Threats: In the Australian Capital Territory significant kills of Western Carp Gudgeon have resulted due to infestation by the introduced tapeworm *Bothriocephalus acheilognathi*.

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.

