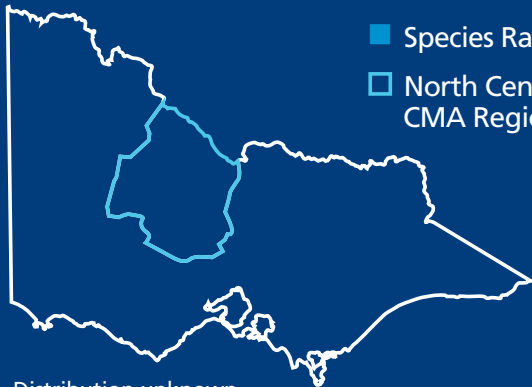


Mountain Galaxias (*Galaxias olidus*)

Tail fin shape



■ Species Range
□ North Central CMA Region

Distribution unknown



Photo Arthur Mostead



Photo Gunther Schmida

Family: Galaxiidae

Other common names: Ornate Mountain Galaxias

Description: The Mountain Galaxias is a small, elongated tubular fish with small eyes. The back is brownish to yellow-green, while the belly is olive to silvery white. Variable patterns of stripes, blotches or no markings at all can be present. The adult can grow up to 80 mm (maximum size is about 140 mm).

Fins: The dorsal, pectoral, pelvic and anal fins are present. The tail is weakly forked.

Habitat: Found in small creeks to large rivers. Common in slow flowing environments or pools, around rocks and logs. If trout is present they can be restricted to shallow edge habitats and riffles.

Conservation status & distribution: Common, widespread and abundant. Widely distributed on both sides of the Great Dividing Range from southern Queensland to Kangaroo Island. Despite their name they are not restricted to mountainous areas, having been found in lowland areas. This species has a small home range of 20 metres.

Breeding: Spawning occurs during spring to early summer. It is thought that the species does not migrate for spawning. Individuals mature at the end of their first year.

Eggs: 50-400 large adhesive eggs (2.5 mm in diameter) are spawned on the downstream side of stones in riffles, upstream of pools. Hatching takes about three weeks.

Diet: Feeds mainly on aquatic insects; however, the Mountain Galaxias will eat terrestrial insects that have landed on the water surface.

Threats: Alien species such as Brown Trout are a major threat. Their introduction to a site may result in the rapid decline of local populations of the Mountain Galaxias. Infection from an alien parasitic copepod (*Ierna*) has been suggested to have resulted in significant deaths.

Interesting facts and features: There have been records of the species basking on damp rocks in alpine areas.

Spawning time

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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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.

