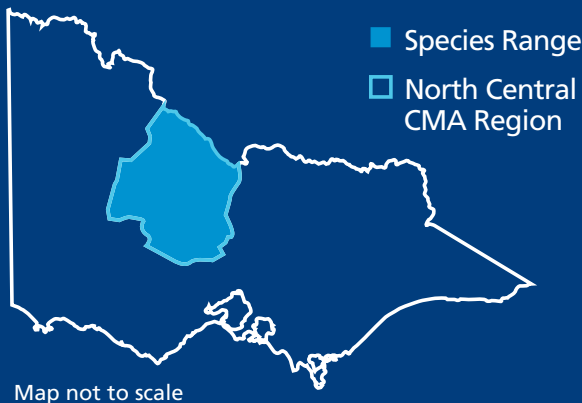


# River Blackfish (*Gadopsis marmoratus*)

Tail fin shape



**Family:** Gadopsidae

**Other common names:** Slippery, Slimy, Muddy, Greasy

**Description:** The River Blackfish has a large mouth and is a pale olive-green or brown to almost black, often with a diffuse marbled pattern. The body is covered in very small scales with a mucous coating. The adult can grow to 200-250 mm (maximum size is about 600 mm).

**Fins:** The pelvic, dorsal and anal fins are present. Tail is rounded.

**Habitat:** Prefers clear, gently flowing streams with good in-stream cover such as large woody habitat, aquatic vegetation or boulders. It is found in a diverse range of streams, from upland and lowland small creeks to large rivers.

**Conservation status & distribution:** In the wild the River Blackfish is commonly found in all major tributaries of the Murray and the mid to upper reaches of the Murrumbidgee, Macquarie, Lachlan, Gwydir and Namoi drainages in New South Wales. It is locally common in the Condamine-Balonne and present in the Border rivers drainage in Queensland. In South Australia it has disappeared from the Murray and is now confined to small localised populations in the Eastern Mt Lofty streams. Listed as threatened in South Australia.

**Breeding:** Spawning occurs during spring and summer when temperatures exceed 16°C. The species matures at four to five years of age.

**Eggs:** The eggs are large (4 mm in diameter), demersal, and adhesive. Eggs are laid inside hollow logs, although rocks and undercut banks may also be used. Hatching occurs after 14 days at temperatures of 15°C.

**Diet:** The River Blackfish is an opportunistic carnivore. It commonly consumes aquatic insect larvae, crustaceans, terrestrial insects that fall or land on the water surface, and occasionally other fish.

**Threats:** Habitat modification such as cold water pollution, desnagging and river regulation are likely to impact River Blackfish.

**Interesting facts and features:** The River Blackfish is readily distinguished from the Two-spined Blackfish by the dorsal fin having more than three spines.

## Spawning time

|     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
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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](http://www.nccma.vic.gov.au) for more information.

