

Southern Pygmy Perch (*Nannoperca australis*)

Tail fin shape

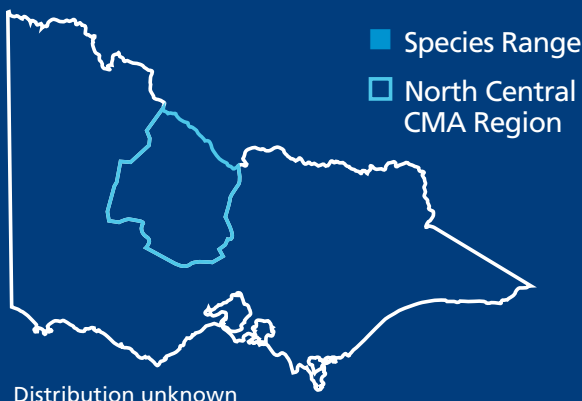


Photo Gunther Schmida

Family: Nannopercidae

Other common names: Swamp Perch

Description: The Southern Pygmy Perch is a small, laterally-compressed fish, with a small mouth. The body is golden to olive-greenish, with a silvery-white belly. Dark blotches are present on the upper body. The adult size is about 60 mm (maximum size is 85 mm).

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

Habitat: Slow flowing or still water with dense aquatic vegetation. Usually found in streams, channels and billabongs.

Conservation status & distribution: Not listed as threatened in Victoria, listed as vulnerable in New South Wales and protected in South Australia. Formerly known to occur in the Murray and lower Murrumbidgee catchments, is now thought to have disappeared from most locations in New South Wales. It is still common in southern (coastal) Victoria, but is patchily distributed from the Broken, Ovens, Campaspe, Goulburn, Kiewa, Mitta Mitta, Loddon and Wimmera basins.

Breeding: Spawning occurs from spring to early summer when water temperatures reach 16°C. Males are territorial when breeding. Maturity is generally reached in the first 12 months. This species may live up to five years.

Eggs: Females produce between 100 and 4,200 round, transparent and non-adhesive eggs. Eggs are scattered on aquatic vegetation. Larvae hatch within two to four days.

Diet: A carnivorous species, its diet consists mainly of cladocerans, copepods, ostracods and small insect larvae such as chironomids, mosquito larvae and water bugs.

Threats: Threats include predation from alien species such as Brown Trout, Redfin Perch, and Eastern Gambusia, habitat alteration, cold water pollution and changes to flow.

Interesting facts and features: Breeding males have prominent black colouration on the pelvic and anal fins and around the vent and fins go deep red colour during the breeding season.

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.

