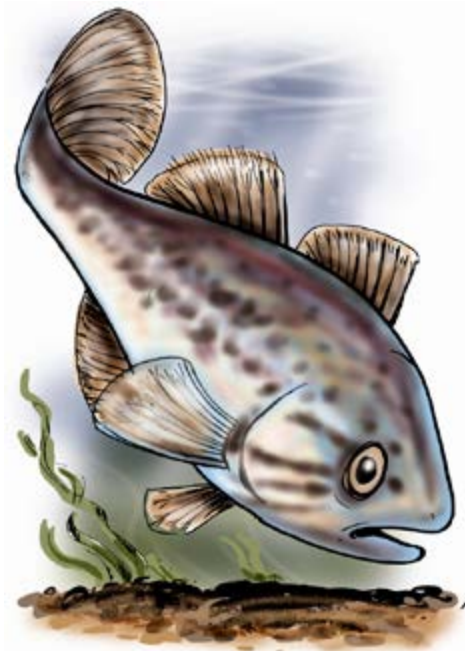


Flinders Ranges Purple-spotted Gudgeon

Mogurnda clivicola



Flinders Ranges Purple-spotted Gudgeons are robust freshwater fish that can grow up to 15cm long (but are usually five to eight cm). They have rounded heads and tails, small mouths, and dark to yellowish brown backs, fading to lighter brown/cream bellies. Blue and rust coloured spotting on their sides gives them their name.

Diet

As opportunistic predators, they eat whatever food is available in their habitat including freshwater invertebrates such as worms, mosquito fish, dragonfly as well as midge and mosquito larvae.

Breeding

Spawning usually occurs in spring and summer. After mating, females attach their transparent eggs to a hard surface and males take care of them. Eggs hatch in three to eight days at temperatures of 20 – 28°C. Newly hatched fish are about 4mm long and juveniles stay together in schools until they become mature at 6 to 7cm long. At this size they start to become territorial and behave like adults.

Habitat

The Flinders Ranges Purple-spotted Gudgeon is endemic to South Australia. They occur along a few kilometers of Balcanoona Creek in the Gammon Ranges National Park in the northeast Flinders Ranges in rocky stream habitat areas that are maintained by springs thought to come from local rock aquifers. In other areas of the Flinders Ranges they can be found in isolated water holes along rocky creeks. They can only move to new areas during flooding events. They prefer slow flowing to still water and need physical cover and suitable hard objects for spawning.

Threats

Threats to the Flinders Ranges Purple-spotted Gudgeon include loss of habitat through destruction, disturbance or modification. Only small fragmented populations exist, therefore any small changes, or natural chance events such as storms, leave each of them very vulnerable to extinction.

Competition with introduced species, such as *Gambusia* (*Gambusia holbrooki* – also known as Mosquitofish), commercial collection for aquariums and predation by introduced fish such as redfin are other threats. Cancer, possibly from increased UV as a result of climate change is also a problem.



Map courtesy of Mapping Unit, Customer and Commercial Services.

Map is not intended to indicate spatial distribution of the species, only the bioregions in which the species is found.



After a female gudgeon lays her eggs on a hard surface the male guards them and fans them with his fins to keep them oxygenated!

Conservation

The Flinders Ranges Purple-spotted Gudgeon is listed as Vulnerable and is therefore a protected species. Management programs are in place, that aim to maintain and protect the habitat of this species.

You can help the Flinders Ranges Purple-spotted Gudgeon by:

- doing your bit to stop climate change by being wise with your energy use at home
- supporting our national parks – check the ‘volunteer’ section of www.environment.sa.gov.au to see if there are projects you can volunteer on in your local area.



Photo by Michael Hammer

Flinders Ranges Purple-spotted Gudgeon

For further information

Public enquiries

For more local information on any of the species in this resource please contact your nearest Natural Resource Centre office on:

Eastwood: (08) 8273 9100

Gawler: (08) 8523 7700

Lobethal: (08) 8389 5900

Willunga: (08) 8550 3400

Education enquiries

For teachers wanting more information about environmental education resources and opportunities please contact the relevant NRM Education sub regional team on:

Northern Adelaide: (08) 8406 8289

Barossa: (08) 8563 8436

Central Adelaide: (08) 8234 7255

Southern Adelaide: (08) 8384 0176

Southern Fleurieu: (08) 8551 0524

