

Mud Minnow

Galaxiella munda is a species of fish in the Galaxiidae family. It is endemic to inland waters of southwest Western Australia, and known as the **Western mud minnow**. In 1999 the Mud Minnow was not included in the list of threatened species under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act.

Description

This species has a maximum length of 6 centimetres (2 in). The Mud Minnow has an elongated scaleless body, a white belly and a grey-brown back. A distinctive broad brown stripe starts from behind the eye and ends tail fins base. The fish has a one year life-cycle.

A number of informal names exist for this species, Galaxias, the Western dwarf galaxias, and Western mud minnow. The name **mud minnow** also refers to the Lepidogalaxiidae family, while **Swan galaxias** can refer to either *Galaxiella munda* or the *Galaxias* species *G. fontanus*.

Habitat

This species is only found in the South West corner of Western Australia. It inhabits coastal rivers, streams, ponds, swamps and ditches between Albany and Ellen Brook. It can tolerate acidic water that is tannin stained and with a pH as low as 3.0.

Diet

Galaxiella munda is carnivorous and mainly feeds on small insects. insect larvae and micro-crustaceans.

Lepidogalaxias salamandroides is a species of small fish of Western Australia. It is the only member of the family **Lepidogalaxiidae** (**Lepidogalaxiid**) and genus ***Lepidogalaxias***.

Common names for this fish include **Salamander fish** and **Shannon mud minnow**. Although it is not a lungfish, it resembles lungfish in several respects, including its ability to survive dry seasons by burrowing into the sand.

Lepidogalaxias salamandroides is small with females measuring up to 7 cm in length. This species has a slender, elongate and cylindrical body. The colour is brownish-green on the upper parts, silver-speckled and blotched on the sides, very pale below, and the fin membranes are transparent. The reddish eyes are fixed, but the fish is able to move its neck in any direction. It has a limited distribution in acidic pools of water in heathland peat flats of southwest Australia, between the Black wood and Kent Rivers.[This range is across a distance of 180 kilometres, in an area of North Cliff, they are common in this region. Its habitat is semi-permanent water, small pools and streams that may be high in tannins and acidity (pH 3.0-6.5). They experience a range of water temperatures, daily changes of 16 to 32 degrees Celsius, in pools no deeper than 0.1 metres. The species rests on the bottom of the water using elongated pelvic and rounded caudal fins. These small and shallow pools may contain a population of around 150 individuals, are generally no larger than 600 square metres, and evaporate in the dry seasons. It is also unusual for its ability to survive desiccation by burrowing into sand, a process of aestivation, when the pools it lives in periodically evaporate.

The species was first described in 1961 by Gerlof Fokko Mees. This author identified the species

as belonging to the Galaxiidae, but the relationship to those species was in doubt.

Lepidogalaxias salamandroides was eventually placed among the Osmeriformes as a monotypic arrangement, *Lepidogalaxias* (Lepidogalaxiidae), in 1991. This placement has been also challenged, but remains current. The species is contained in the class Actinopterygii, ray-finned fish, and is sometimes given the taxonomic placements as Galaxiidae of the order Salmoniformes.

It is sometimes named as the **Mud minnow**, **Long-finned Galaxias**, **Scaled Galaxias**, or **Dwarf pencil fish**, however mud minnow usually refers to *Galaxiella munda*.

Umbridae (mud minnows) are a family of Actinopterygii, ray-finned fish, that inhabit freshwater environments in temperate regions across the northern hemisphere. They are generally small fish, with the largest species reaching 33 centimetres (13 in) in length, and most less than half that.

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