



Australian Government



Native Fish Strategy

FISH FACTSHEET: TAMAR GOBY (TAMAR RIVER GOBY)



Scientific Name

Afurcagobius tamarensis Johnston , 1883

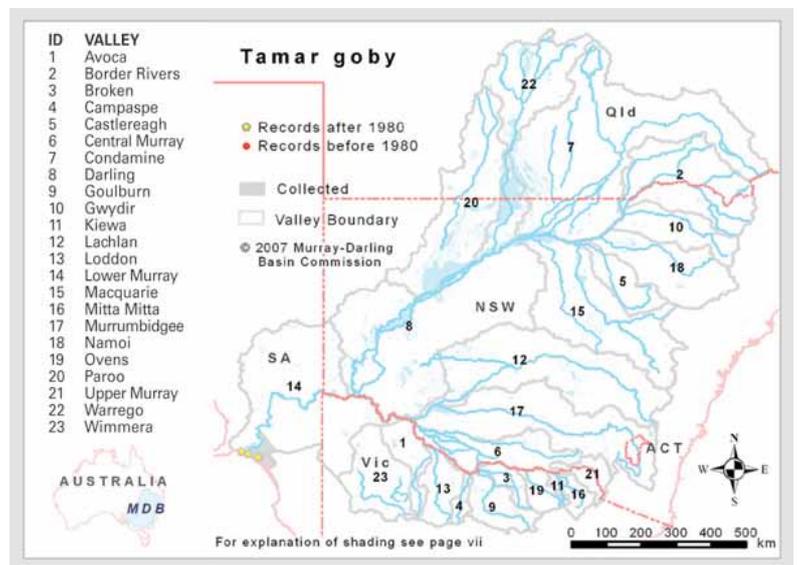
photo by Gunther Schmida

CONSERVATIONS STATUS

Restricted.

DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE

The Tamar goby is common and widespread in estuaries of Vic, NSW, eastern SA and northern Tas. In the Basin, it is known only from the Lower Lakes (Alexandrina and Albert) where it is patchily distributed and unknown whether it forms reproductively viable populations. It is common in the Coorong.



IDENTIFICATION

A small fish with a flattened head, bulbous cheeks and an oblique, moderate to large mouth. Maximum size ~110mm; commonly 80mm. The gape extends to below the middle of the eye (females), or to well beyond the eye (males). There are two dorsal fins, the caudal fin is rounded, and the pelvic fins are joined to form a large cup-shaped disc. There are no scales on the head or nape in front of the first dorsal fin. The head and body is pale grey to brown, fading to cream on the ventral surface. The head is mottled. A series of 3-5 dark brown saddle-shaped blotches are present on the back, with a row of 6-9 midlateral brown blotches on the sides.

BIOLOGY AND HABITAT

An estuarine species, the Tamar goby is also found in adjacent freshwater streams and lakes. It is usually recorded in still or slow-flowing habitats with mud or silt substrates and abundant cover from rocks, logs or aquatic vegetation. Benthic and burrowing, it constructs its own burrow or uses a vacated one. It spawns in spring and the male performs a 'hopping' courtship display to entice the female to the burrow.

POTENTIAL THREATS

None known.

GENERAL REFERENCES

- Allen et al . 2002;
- Cadwallader & Backhouse 1983;
- Larson & Hoese 1996b;
- Higham et al. 2005;
- Wedderburn & Hammer 2003.

PDF LINKS

Fishes of the Murray-Darling Basin: An introductory Guide;

<http://mdba.gov.au/files/publications/MDBA-Fish-species-book.pdf>



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