



Australian Government



Native Fish Strategy

FISH FACTSHEET: WESTERN BLUE-SPOT GOBY (SWAN RIVER GOBY)



Scientific Name

Pseudogobius olorum (Savage, 1880)

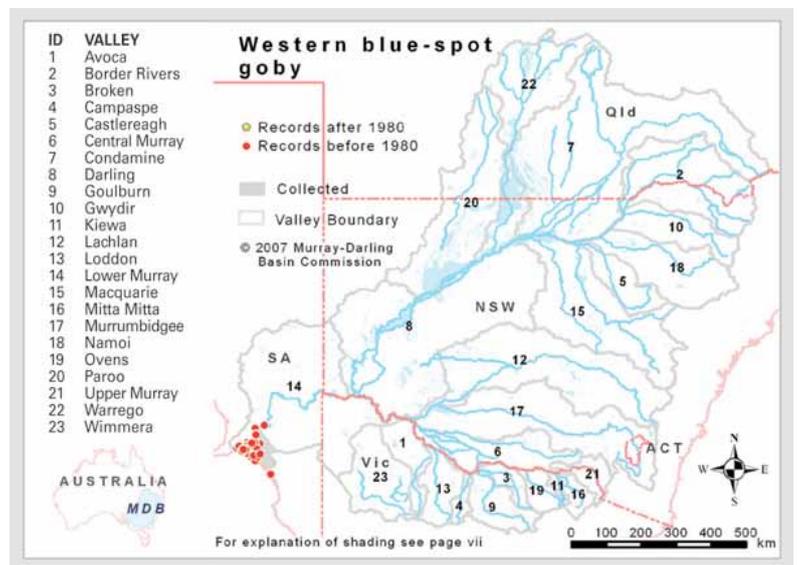
photo by Gunther Schmida

CONSERVATIONS STATUS

Restricted.

DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE

This goby is a common and widespread estuarine species in coastal streams of SA and WA. In the Basin it is known only from the Lower Lakes (Alexandrina and Albert) and associated wetlands, where it exists as largely landlocked populations.



IDENTIFICATION

A small, cylindrical fish with a rounded head, bulbous cheeks and a small mouth. Maximum size ~60mm, commonly $\leq 45\text{mm}$. The gape extends to just past the anterior margin of the eye in females, and to mid-eye or further back in males. There are two dorsal fins, the caudal fin is oval, and the pelvic fins are joined to form a disc-shape. Scales are present on the nape and opercula. The head and body is light brownish to yellowish brown or grey, fading to white on the ventral surface. A series, usually of 5-6 dark, roughly rectangular blotches are present on the back from the nape to the caudal peduncle, and there is another series of midlateral blotches on the sides. The anal fin may have a blue edge, the dorsal fins are barred and the first dorsal fin may have a blue spot.

BIOLOGY AND HABITAT

The Western blue-spot goby is really a marginal freshwater/estuarine species and occupies brackish estuaries and associated freshwater streams and lakes. It is benthic, burrowing and usually recorded over mud or rock substrates, occasionally in weedy areas. It spawns about 150 eggs in dense aquatic vegetation in spring in the upper reaches of estuaries, and the male guards and fans the eggs. In an estuary in Western Australia, the species consumed benthic crustaceans and algae.

POTENTIAL THREATS

None known.

GENERAL REFERENCES

- Allen et al . 2002;
- Cadwallader & Backhouse 1983;
- DPI 2006;
- Gill & Potter 1993;
- Humphries & Potter 1993;
- Larson & Hoese 1996b;
- 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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Murray-Darling Basin Authority

GPO Box 1801 Canberra ACT 2601

Tel 02 6279 0100 Fax 02 6248 8053

www.mdba.gov.au