



pugnose minnow

Opsopoeodus emiliae

Kingdom: Animalia
Division/Phylum: Chordata
Class: Osteichthyes
Order: Cypriniformes
Family: Cyprinidae

FEATURES

The pugnose minnow grows to an average length of two to two and one-half inches. A cross-hatched pattern is visible on its back and upper sides. The small mouth opens toward the surface of the water and may have a small barbel on one or both sides. The male has two dark areas on the dorsal fin. The back is green-yellow. The sides are silver with a dark stripe. The lower half of the anal and pelvic fins are bright white on a breeding male. The breeding male also has a dark silver-blue body and the dorsal fin black with a white central area.

BEHAVIORS

The pugnose minnow may be found statewide in Illinois. This minnow lives in lakes, swamps and sluggish streams. It spawns in early summer. The male establishes a territory into which the female deposits eggs. Hatching takes place in four to six days with the male guarding the eggs during that period. This fish eats small insects and other aquatic invertebrates.

HABITATS

- bottomland forests
- coniferous forest
- southern Illinois lowlands
- upland deciduous forest

ILLINOIS STATUS

- common
- endangered
- threatened
- native
- exotic

ILLINOIS RANGE

Permanent resident: statewide

Summer resident:

Migrant:

Winter resident:

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.
Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume 2: Woodland Habitats CD-ROM.