



## Western Carp Gudgeon *Hypseleotris klunzingeri*

### DESCRIPTION AND CHARACTERISTICS

The Western Carp Gudgeon is native to Australia. They are a small fish with a slender body form which is laterally compressed. They are generally pale grey/pearly white overall with a silvery belly which may display some dark blotches. Usually they have a distinct row of dark scale margins mid-laterally, with a narrow dark bar across the caudal peduncle. Their median fins are usually transparent, except in breeding males where they will become red with a white sub-marginal stripe. Males are generally larger and more slender than the females and develop a hump on their head during breeding.



Photo by Gunther Schmida. Sourced from the Murray-Darling Basin Commission.

### BIOLOGY AND LIFE CYCLE

They are most common in slow flowing rivers and streams or the still waters of lakes, billabongs and dams, among aquatic vegetation.

This species reaches a maximum of 4.5 cm.

Spawning occurs for a few hours in late spring to summer when water temperature rises above 22 degrees Celsius. After being laid the male guards and aerates the eggs until they hatch about 2 days later. Fry be-

come free swimming after about 3 or 4 days after they have absorbed the yolk sac. The young reach sexual maturity by the end of their first year.

The diet of this fish includes insects, larvae, micro-crustaceans and some plant material.

They are an important forage fish for many other larger native species such as Murray Cod, Golden Perch, Macquarie Perch and Freshwater Catfish.

### DISTRIBUTION

Very common. They occur throughout the Murray-Darling Drainage Division, in the eastern coastal streams from Herbert Creek to the Hunter River and in

Cooper Creek and the Bulloo River in the interior. They have also been introduced to the Wimmera and Wannon rivers.

### CONSERVATION STATUS IN VICTORIA

Common and often abundant throughout its natural range.

### KEY THREATS

In some locations it has been adversely effected by river regulation due to reduced water levels to expos-

ing spawning sites.