

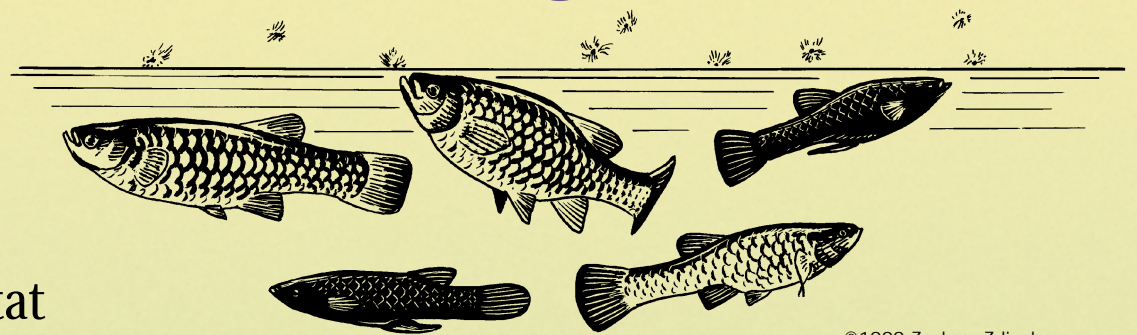
Sonoran topminnow

(Subspecies: Gila) *Poeciliopsis occidentalis occidentalis*

Endangered
Species

Once abundant in Arizona's rivers,
the Gila Topminnow is now endangered

Less than a dozen naturally occurring populations of Gila topminnow, and a number of reintroduced populations, remain in Arizona's rivers. Loss of habitat and the introduction of nonnative fish species have severely affected topminnow population growth. Nonnative fish, in



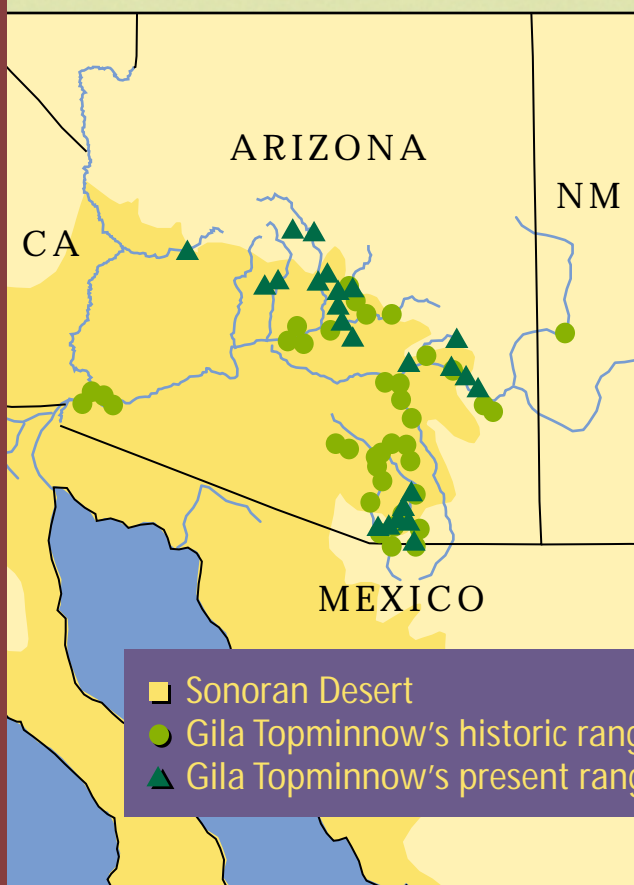
males are
1 in / 2.5cm long

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Instead of laying eggs, topminnows bear live young — the only fish in Arizona to do so!

particular the western mosquitofish, not only compete for food, but also prey on young topminnows.

Topminnows favor the warm, shallow waters found at the overgrown edges of pools, creeks and small rivers. They feed on aquatic plants and small animals, such as mosquito larvae and fish fry. During breeding season, from April to November, the smaller males turn black with yellow or orange fins.



Funding provided by the University of Arizona's Water, Economic Development, and Sustainability Program (WEDSP)

Please **DO NOT** feed our fish!
They are on a special diet.