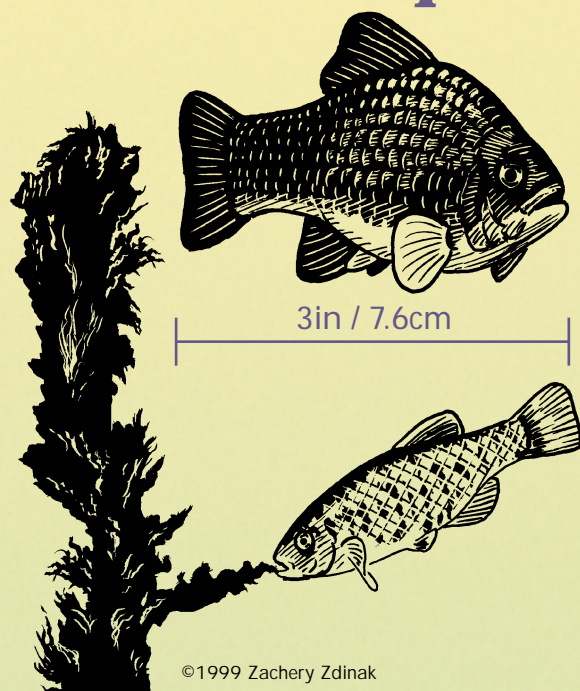


Desert Pupfish

(Subspecies: Quitobaquito)
Cyprinodon macularis eremus

A true desert survivor — the pupfish can withstand water temperatures of more than 110°F (43°C)

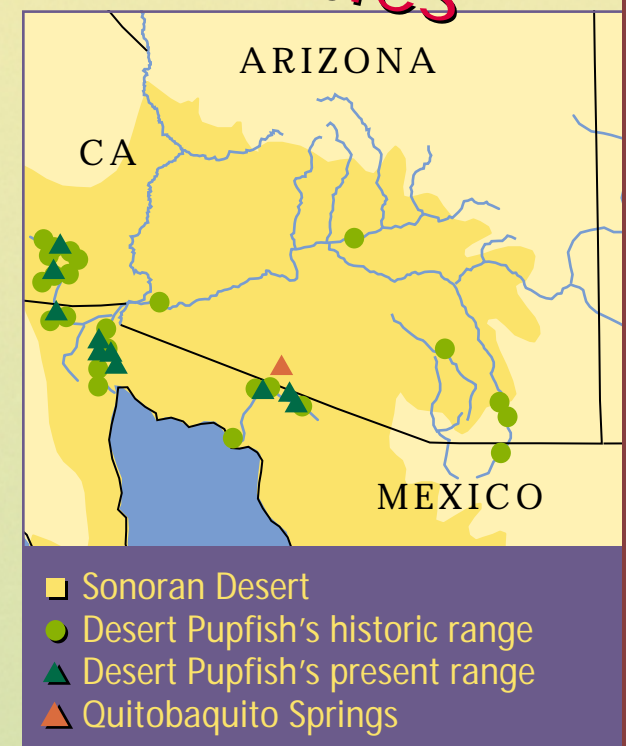


Pupfish consume aquatic plants, invertebrate animals, and other marine creatures that live in springs and small streams. Female pupfish and their young are silver, marked with darker bands that help camouflage them in weeds. The brightly colored and highly aggressive male pupfish establish and defend territories in algae mats where the females lay their eggs each spring and summer.

Small, thick-bodied, and highly adapted, the Quitobaquito pupfish is capable of tolerating extreme temperatures and water nearly twice as salty as the ocean. Yet this tenacious desert fish is now an endangered species.

Pupfish habitat once covered a wide range within Arizona, California and Mexico, but today that range is greatly reduced. Competition for food and predation by the nonnative baitfish released into its riparian habitat have nearly destroyed the once common desert pupfish. The last remaining major pupfish population in Arizona is found at Quitobaquito Springs in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument.

Endangered Species



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