### Species

**Gambusia holbrooki** (Girard, 1859)

### Common names

Eastern gambusia, plague minnow, mosquitofish

### Order : Family

Cyprinodontiformes : Poeciliidae

### Impact summary

Very hardy, highly invasive species. It can out-compete native species for space and food; predates on eggs and young of many species and can kill larger fish through fin nipping. They also continually harass other species and have been implicated in the decline of several native fish and amphibian species.

There is a high risk of the species introduction and establishment on Cape York and Torres Strait Islands and they are already present on Thursday Island. It is widespread in Queensland south of Cairns. This is declared a noxious, prohibited species in Queensland. If found report to QDPI Fisheries on 132523

### Appearance & Size

Small species with grey to olive-brown ground colour and light belly; sometimes with a bluish colour; dark spots present on the top and tail fin; females larger with a more rounded body tapering to the tail and mature adults with dark patch on belly; males smaller; females grow to about 8cm and males to about 4cm maximum, but are typically smaller than this, usually being 5-6cm for females and 3cm for males.

### Native Range

USA - temperate 40°N – 25°N areas of the eastern Atlantic and Gulf Drainages of USA from New Jersey to Alabama

### Habitat

Occurs in fresh and brackish (slightly salty) waters; prefers warm, slow flowing or still waters among aquatic vegetation in shallow margins of water bodies.

### Human Use

Used in aquaria. Spread in many countries to control mosquito larvae but is not effective at this.

### Introduction History

Introduced to 31 countries (established in at least 27 of these) in temperate and tropical regions throughout Europe, Middle East; Hawaii, China; India, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Singapore, Madagascar; present in PNG (or possibly the closely related *G. affinis*)

### Image

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