

Alert !

Report sightings of this species:

- online: <https://irecord.org.uk/>
- by email: alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk
- or scan QR code to report a sighting:



Topmouth gudgeon

Scientific name: *Pseudorasbora parva*

Also known as: False harlequin, Stone moroko

Native to: East Asia

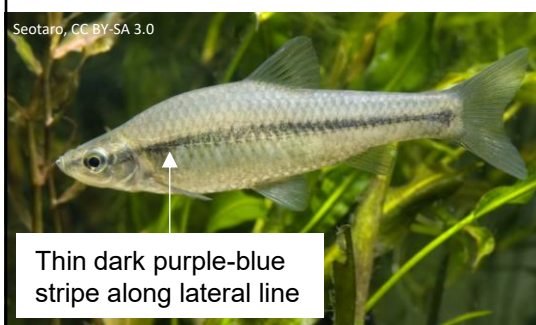
Habitat: Well vegetated small freshwater channels such as ponds and small lakes.

A small slender freshwater fish, usually 4-8 cm in length. Usually iridescent silvery blue with a thin dark purple/blue stripe running along the lateral line. Scales are quite large, with dark edges. Mouth is small and high-set with an upturned lower jaw.

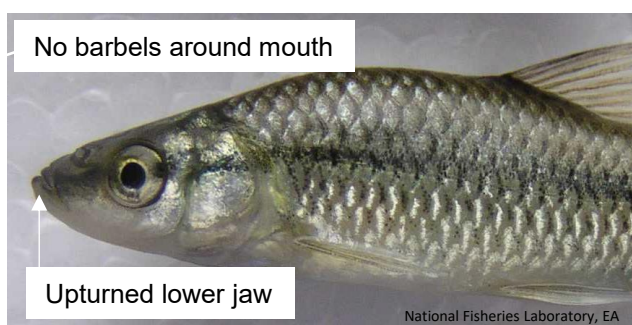
Recorded in a small number of sites in Great Britain (GB). Able to lay multiple batches of eggs per year and form remarkably high densities. Can compete with native fish for food, habitat, and spawning areas, be a vector of diseases, and become a pest species for recreational anglers. It is illegal to buy, sell, keep or release topmouth gudgeon in GB. For details refer to: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/invasive-non-native-alien-animal-species-rules-in-england-and-wales>



Key ID Features



Usually 4-8 cm long with 34-38 scales along lateral line

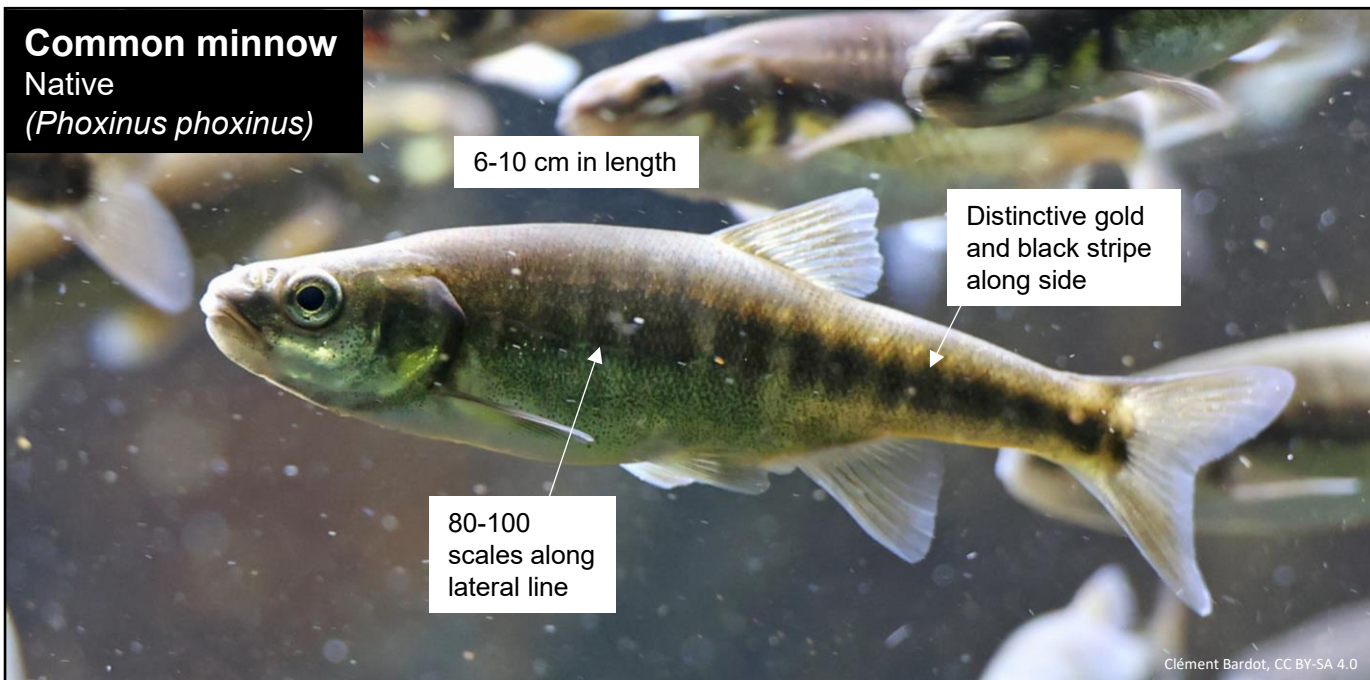


Similar Species

Topmouth gudgeon may be confused with the native common minnow (*Phoxinus phoxinus*) and native gudgeon (*Gobio gobio*) but can be distinguished through the features below.

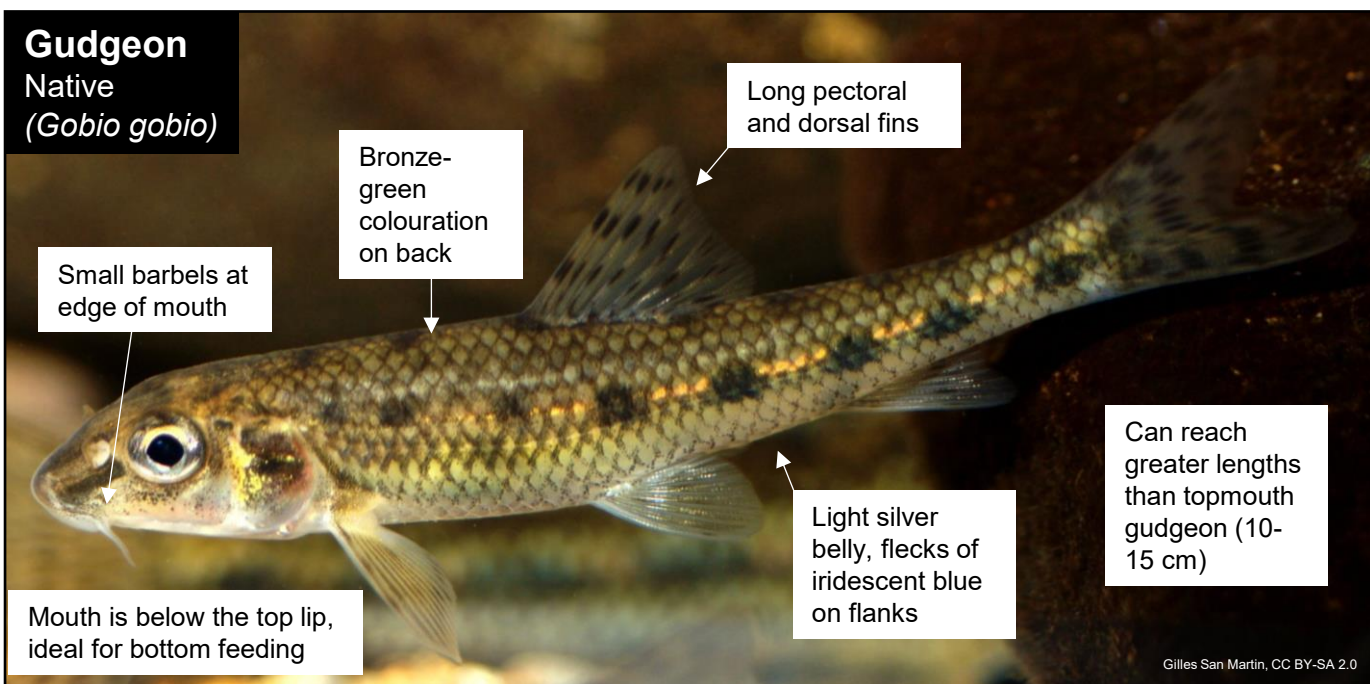
Common minnow

Native
(*Phoxinus phoxinus*)



Gudgeon

Native
(*Gobio gobio*)



Further information:

- <https://www.nonnativespecies.org/non-native-species/information-portal/view/2876>
- <https://canalrivertrust.org.uk/things-to-do/fishing/caring-for-our-fish/freshwater-fish-species/invasive-and-non-native-fish/topmouth-gudgeon>
- <https://www.invasivespeciesni.co.uk/species-accounts/potential/freshwater/topmouth-gudgeon>