

Threatened Species Assessment

Ambassis agassizii Agassiz's Glassfish

Taxonomy

Ambassis agassizii Steindachner, 1866

Description

A small silvery-yellow to semi-transparent glassfish often with a darker olive-brown hue above, dusky scale margins forming a network pattern, and often broad dusky margins on the dorsal, anal and pelvic fins. Agassiz's Glassfish occurs in a variety of freshwater habitats in the Murray-Darling basin, although the species is naturally extinct in South Australia and Victoria (Bray & Thompson 2018).

Current conservation status

Listed as threatened under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988* (SAC 1991).

Categorised as 'Regionally Extinct' in Victoria in the Advisory List of Threatened Vertebrate Fauna in Victoria 2013 (DSE 2013).

Proposed conservation status

Regionally Extinct (RX) in Victoria.

Criteria for Extinct status

As per Schedule 1 of the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Regulations 2020, the primary criterion for the category of threat 'extinct' is met if—

- (a) exhaustive surveys throughout the taxon's historic range fail to record an individual member of the taxon; and
- (b) those surveys were conducted over a time frame appropriate to the taxon's life cycle and life form, in known or expected habitat and at appropriate times (diurnal, seasonal, annual).

Historical records of the species were retrieved from the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas. A 50km buffer was placed around each location, and all surveys of appropriate surveying method to date were retrieved. In total, 832 appropriate surveys have taken place within the historic range with no records of *A. agassizii* since 1929.

Victorian Biodiversity Atlas search results	
Number of known historical locations	2
Last known record	1929
Total recorded surveys to date within 50km of all historical locations	832
Survey methods searched	Angling (general), Bait Trap (+bait), Bait Trap (+light stick), Bait Trap (+light stick+bait), Bait Trap (general), Dip Net, Drift diving/Snorkling, Drum Net, Electrofishing (backpack larval sweep), Electrofishing (backpack), Electrofishing (bankmounted), Electrofishing (boat - general), Electrofishing (general), Electrofishing (large boat), Electrofishing (medium boat), Electrofishing (small boat), External

	data, Fishway Trap, Fyke Net (double wing), Fyke Net (fine mesh), Fyke Net (general), Fyke Net (larval), Fyke Net (single wing), Gill Net, Hoop Net, Larval Net, Opera House Net, Piscicide, Seine Net, Set Line, Visual search
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Historical distribution

Occurs in both eastern (coastal) and western (Murray-Darling) drainages in NSW, but these populations may be genetically distinct. The western population of Olive Perchlet were once widespread throughout the Murray-Darling system of South Australia, Victoria, western New South Wales and southern Queensland, but have suffered serious decline. The population is now found in limited sites in the Darling River drainage and an isolated population in the central Lachlan catchment. The species is extinct in Victoria and has not been found in South Australia since 1983 (NSW Department of Primary Industries 2014).

References

Bray, D.J. & Thompson, V.J. 2018, *Ambassis agassizii* in *Fishes of Australia*, accessed 26 Apr 2021, <https://fishesofaustralia.net.au/home/species/1581>

DSE (2013). *Advisory List of Threatened Vertebrate Fauna in Victoria 2013*. Department of Sustainability and Environment, Melbourne. <https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/conserving-threatened-species/threatened-species-advisory-lists>

NSW Department of Primary Industries (2014). Primefact 176 Second edition: Olive Perchlet (western population) - *Ambassis agassizii*. Accessed 26 Apr 2021, https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/635876/PUB12-10-Primefact-176-Western-Olive-Perchlet-Ambassis-agassizii.pdf

SAC (1991). Flora and Fauna Guarantee Scientific Advisory Committee: Final Recommendation on a Nomination for Listing. Nomination No. 75 *Ambassis agassizii*.