

Threatened species of the Northern Territory

Lorentz Grunter

Pingalla lorentzi

Conservation status

Australia: Not listed

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

Northern Territory: Vulnerable

Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1976

Description

Lorentz Grunter is a small, perch-like fish with a maximum length of about 20 cm. It is uniformly silver in colour with darkened scale margins dorsally. It has a white stripe from below the eye to the upper lip. The fins are mostly transparent to dusky and the anal fin has a dark grey to blackish blotch. The dorsal fin has 13 to 14 spines and 11 to 13 soft rays¹.

Distribution

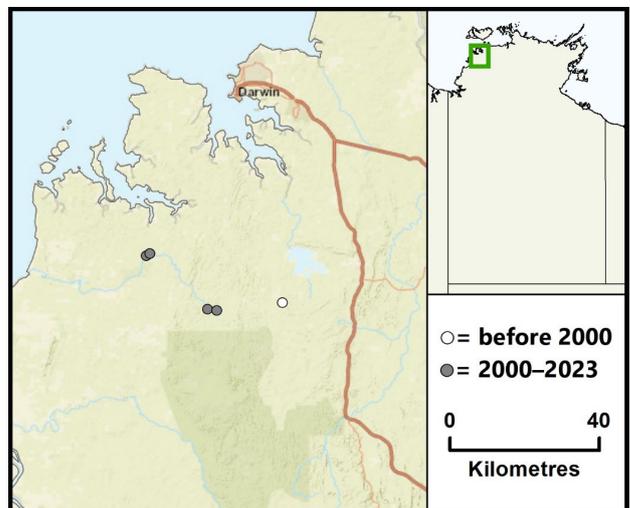
Lorentz Grunter is patchily distributed in the Northern Territory (NT), far north Queensland and in southern New Guinea. In the NT, the species is known only from the Finnis River².

NT conservation reserves where reported: None.

Ecology and life-history

Adult Lorentz Grunters occur in lentic and lotic freshwater where they inhabit large pools with rock and sand substrates, usually in open, unshaded sections of streams and in water temperatures between 25°C and 30°C¹.

Their diet consists primarily of benthic algae. The teeth of Lorentz Grunter are adapted to scraping



Known localities of Lorentz Grunter in the NT (nrmmaps.nt.gov.au)

algae and other plant material from rock and wood surfaces and from sandy substrates¹.

Spawning appears to occur in the early to middle of the wet season, from November to February, as evidenced by the observation of juveniles in September. Eggs are guarded and fanned by the male.

Threatening processes

Lorentz Grunter occurs relatively close to Darwin. Potential threats are degradation of waterways and riparian vegetation due to development, mining activity, altered fire regimes, weed infestation and alteration of water flow and quality (due to erosion or pollution as a

consequence of poor land management and agricultural development).

Conservation objectives and management

The main research priorities for Lorentz Grunter are to: better define the distribution and status of this species; and assess the impacts of a range of putative threatening processes.

Given the species' very limited distribution, further surveys should be carried out to determine if its occurrence is more widespread in the Finniss River and adjacent catchments.

The primary management priority is to establish a monitoring program at the known sites because of the proximity of the species to developed areas.

References

¹ Allen, G.R., Midgley, S.H., Allen, M., 2002. Field Guide to Freshwater Fishes of Australia. Western Australian Museum, Perth.

² Pusey, B.J., Burrows, D.W., Kennard, M.J., Perna, C.N., Unmack, P.J., Allsop, Q., Hammer, M.P. (2017). Freshwater fishes of northern Australia. *Zootaxa* 4253, 1-104.