Gambusia affinis

Western mosquitofish

Photo: Robert McDowall
http://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/FactSheet.aspx?SpeciesID=846

General

1. Non-migratory live-bearing fish growing to 6.5cm
2. Feed primarily on zooplankton and invertebrate prey
3. Considered the most widely introduced fish in the world; among the 100 "World's Worst" invaders

Geography and Habitat

1. Native: Atlantic and Gulf Slope drainages from southern New Jersey to Mexico; Mississippi River basin from central Indiana and Illinois south to the Gulf
2. Habitats
    - Feed at the top of the water column
    - Benthopelagic
    - Fresh and brackish water with a pH range of 6.0—8.0 and temperatures of 12°C—29°C
    - Remarkably hardy; tolerant of conditions well outside normal range for short durations
    - Most common in lower reaches of streams, inhabiting brackish, standing to slow-flowing water
    - Vegetated ponds and lakes, backwaters and quiet pools of streams, estuarine habitats, wetlands

Invasion Pathways

1. Routinely stocked as a mosquito-control agent globally

Sources

1. http://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/FactSheet.aspx?SpeciesID=846
2. http://www.issg.org/database/species/ecology.asp?si=126&fr=1&sts=sss&lang=EN
3. http://www.fishbase.org/Summary/speciesSummary.php?ID=3215&genusname=Gambusia&speciesname=affinis&AT=gambusia+affinis&lang=English