

Sleepy Cod

FISH 28

Sleepy cod

Oxyeleotris lineolatus



D. Morgan

“WHAT’S IN YOUR BACKYARD?”



KIMBERLEY SPECIALISTS



Kimberley Toad Busters

Sleepy cod

Oxyeleotris lineolatus

Size: Maximum 45 cm, commonly to 20 cm

Distinguishing features: Dark to light brown. Unclear darker patterning. Large snout, with flattened head and protruding jaw.

Small dark spots on caudal and dorsal fins, other fins clear. No lines across cheek. **Habitat:** Quiet sections of rivers, creeks and billabongs. Often amongst vegetation, logs or undercut banks.

Diet: Insects, fish and crustaceans

Distribution: Freshwater between Ord River and Noosa (QLD)

Allen, Midgley and Allen, 2002, “Field Guide to the Freshwater Fishes of Australia”

www.canetoads.com.au



Giant Gudgeon

FISH 29

Loojoo

Nylkina name



© David Morgan

“WHAT’S IN YOUR BACKYARD?”



KIMBERLEY SPECIALISTS



Kimberley Toad Busters

Giant Gudgeon

Oxyeleotris selheimi

Size: Maximum about 55 cm, commonly to 30 cm

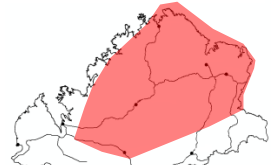
Distinguishing features: A very large, round gudgeon with a dorsally flattened head and protruding lower jaw. Dark brown along back, stripes along sides. Pectoral fins have dark spots forming bands. Pelvic and anal fins spotted also. **Habitat:** Quiet sections of rivers, creeks and billabongs. Often amongst vegetation, logs or undercut banks.

Diet: Nocturnally carnivore of fish, insects and crustaceans

Distribution: Freshwater, widely distributed across Nthn Australia

Ref: Allen, Midgley and Allen, 2002, “Field Guide to the Freshwater Fishes of Australia”

www.canetoads.com.au



Whipfin Silver-biddy

FISH 30



© Mark Allen

“WHAT’S IN YOUR BACKYARD?”



KIMBERLEY SPECIALISTS



Kimberley Toad Busters

Whipfin Silver-biddy

Gerres filamentosus

Size: Maximum 35 cm

Distinguishing features: Oval shape. Strongly compressed body. Protruding mouth, like a tube when extended. Silver with 7 to 10 darker vertical stripes. Second dorsal spine can have a long filament. **Habitat:** Coastal and some inland lakes and rivers

Diet: Buried worms and crustaceans, plunge mouth into sediment and eject sand through gills.

Distribution: Marine/estuaries, widespread across Northern Australia

Ref: Allen, Midgley and Allen, 2002, “Field Guide to the Freshwater Fishes of Australia”

www.canetoads.com.au



Flathead Goby

FISH 31

Flathead goby

Glossogobius giurus



“WHAT’S IN YOUR BACKYARD?”



KIMBERLEY SPECIALISTS



Kimberley Toad Busters

Flathead goby

Glossogobius giurus

Size: Maximum about 14 cm

Distinguishing features: Flattened head and snout. Brown to tan back, with 5-6 dark saddles. 5 large square blotches along sides. With a distinct pattern of sensory pores below eye (on cheek) which are clustered in multiple rows instead of single rows.

Habitat: Clear to turbid streams with rock or sand bottoms

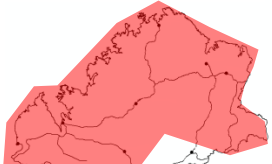
Diet: Insects and crustaceans

Distribution: Freshwater, across Northern Australia

Ref: Murdoch University, 2002 “Fishes of Lake Kununurra”

Allen, Midgley and Allen, 2002, “Field Guide to the Freshwater Fishes of Australia”

www.canetoads.com.au



Tarpon

FISH 32



“WHAT’S IN YOUR BACKYARD?”



Kimberley Toad Busters

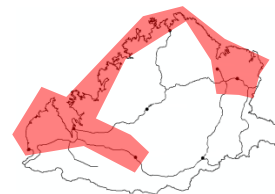
Tarpon, Oxeye Herring

Megalops cyprinoides

Size: Maximum about 130 cm, commonly to 50 cm.

Distinguishing features: Similar to Bony bream but with more slender body and sharply pointed snout, not rounded. Large deeply forked caudal (tail) fin and large mouth. **Habitat:** Juveniles and small adults frequent freshwater rivers, clear or turbid water **Diet:** Crustaceans, insects and fishes **Distribution:** Marine/estuaries, common along northern coast from WA to NSW

Ref: Allen, Midgley and Allen, 2002, "Field Guide to the Freshwater Fishes of Australia" www.canetoads.com.au



Dwarf Sawfish

FISH 33



CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

“WHAT’S IN YOUR BACKYARD?”



Kimberley Toad Busters

Dwarf Sawfish

Pristis clavata

Size: Maximum about 300 cm

Distinguishing features: Similar to Freshwater Sawfish but lacks the highly defined groove that runs along the entire posterior edge of the tooth into and beyond its confluence with the blade of the rostrum. 18 – 22 pairs of teeth. No fork in caudal (tail) fin. Rough skin. **Habitat:** Bottom dweller of estuaries and large rivers. **Diet:** Prawns and fish **Distribution:**

Marine/estuaries widespread across Northern Australia.

Status: Listed on ICUN Red List as Critically Endangered

Ref: Allen, Midgley and Allen, 2002, "Field Guide to the Freshwater Fishes of Australia" www.canetoads.com.au



Freshwater Sawfish

FISH 34



VULNERABLE

“WHAT’S IN YOUR BACKYARD?”



Kimberley Toad Busters

Freshwater Sawfish

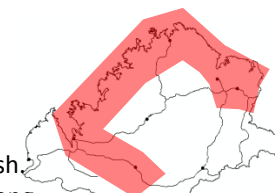
Pristis microdon

Size: Maximum about 460 cm, range between 76 – 250 cm

Distinguishing features: Large ray-like fish. Characterised by a modified snout with long, flat blade equipped with teeth on both sides. Slight fork in (caudal) tail fin. **Habitat:** Bottom dweller of estuaries and lower reaches of large river systems. **Diet:** Prawns and Fish **Distribution:** Marine/estuaries, relatively uncommon, but widespread from Kimberley to QLD coast.

Status: Vulnerable in Australia

Ref: Allen, Midgley and Allen, 2002, "Field Guide to the Freshwater Fishes of Australia" www.canetoads.com.au



Banded Scat

FISH 35



“WHAT’S IN YOUR BACKYARD?”



Kimberley Toad Busters

Stripped Butterfish, Banded Scat

Selenotoca multifasciata

Size: Maximum 28 cm

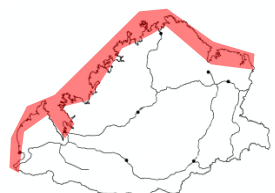
Distinguishing features: Orbicular and laterally compressed, small scales and sharp spines. Numerous wavy black bars on upper sides, which break up into spots on lower half.

Habitat: Mangrove areas, creeks and lower reaches of freshwater streams

Diet: Detritus and small invertebrates

Distribution: Marine/estuaries along WA, NT, QLD and NSW

Ref: Allen, Midgley and Allen, 2002, "Field Guide to the Freshwater Fishes of Australia" www.canetoads.com.au



Spotted Scat

FISH 36



© Mark Allen

“WHAT’S IN YOUR BACKYARD?”



Kimberley Toad Busters

Spotted Scat

Scatophagus argus

Size: Maximum 33 cm

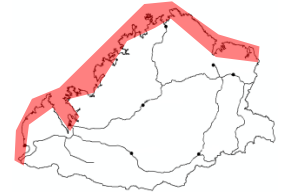
Distinguishing features: Orbicular and laterally compressed, small scales and sharp spines, brown/greenish sheen with spots.

Habitat: Mangrove areas, creeks and lower reaches of freshwater streams

Diet: Detritus and small invertebrates

Distribution: Marine/estuaries along Northern WA, NT, QLD and NSW coastlines

Ref: Allen, Midgley and Allen, 2002, "Field Guide to the Freshwater Fishes of Australia"
www.canetoads.com.au



Barred Grunter

FISH 37



Barred grunter
Amniataba percoides

D. Morgan

“WHAT’S IN YOUR BACKYARD?”



Kimberley Toad Busters

Barred Grunter

Amniataba percoides

Size: Maximum about 18 cm, commonly to 10-12 cm

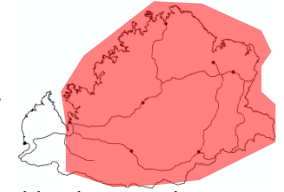
Distinguishing features: Silvery white. Series of 5-6 dark bars on sides with other blotch or patches. Fins clear to yellowish.

Habitat: Still or fast flowing, clear or turbid water

Diet: Aquatic and terrestrial insects, crustaceans, fishes and frogs

Distribution: Freshwater, widely distributed across Northern Australia

Ref: Murdoch University, 2002 "Fishes of Lake Kununurra"
Allen, Midgley and Allen, 2002, "Field Guide to the Freshwater Fishes of Australia"
www.canetoads.com.au



Greenway's Grunter

FISH 38



© David Morgan

ONLY IN THE
KIMBERLEY

“WHAT’S IN YOUR BACKYARD?”



Kimberley Toad Busters

Greenway's Grunter

Hannia grenwayi

Size: Maximum about 14 cm, commonly 7-9 cm

Distinguishing features: Small grunter with relatively large scales. Golden/silvery in colour. Darker scale edges, paler ventrally (underside).

Habitat: Moderately to swiftly flowing streams in clear to turbid water over sandy/rocky bottoms

Diet: Aquatic and terrestrial insects, crustaceans and fishes

Distribution: Freshwater, locally common in Fitzroy system
Ref: Allen, Midgley and Allen, 2002, "Field Guide to the Freshwater Fishes of Australia"
www.canetoads.com.au



Long-Nose Sooty Grunter

FISH 39

ONLY IN THE
KIMBERLEY

Searching for photo!

“WHAT’S IN YOUR BACKYARD?”



Kimberley Toad Busters

Long-nose Sooty Grunter

Hephaestrus epirrhinos

Size: Maximum size 42 cm

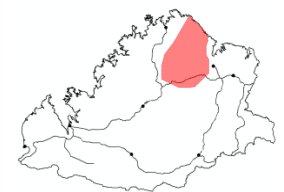
Distinguishing features: Distinctive Concave snout. Greenish grey in colour. Centre of scales gold/bronze with dark edges to scales.

Habitat: Slow flowing freshwater streams over rock

Diet: Crustaceans, insects and fish

Distribution: Drysdale River in National Park and Palmoondoora Creek

Ref: Allen, Midgley and Allen, 2002, "Field Guide to the Freshwater Fishes of Australia"
www.canetoads.com.au



Black Bream

FISH 40



COMMON
SPECIES

Black bream (Jenkin's grunter)
Hephaestus jenkinsi

D. Morgan

“WHAT’S IN YOUR BACKYARD?”



Kimberley Toad Busters

Black Bream, Jenkin's Grunter, Sooty Grunter

Hephaestus jenkinsi

Size: Maximum about 40 cm, commonly to 20 cm.

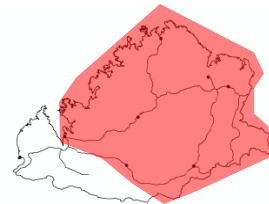
Distinguishing features: Colour variable from black to greenish grey to bronze. Dark edges to scales. White line below reddish eye. **Habitat:** Still or flowing water, clear or turbid streams, particularly common deep rocky pools.

Diet: Invertebrates and small fish. *Good fish for eating!*

Distribution: Freshwater, common in Kimberley to Victoria River.

Ref: Murdoch University, 2002 "Fishes of Lake Kununurra"

Allen, Midgley and Allen, 2002, "Field Guide to the Freshwater Fishes of Australia"



Spangled Perch

FISH 41



Spangled perch
Leiopotherapon unicolor

D. Morgan

“WHAT’S IN YOUR BACKYARD?”



Kimberley Toad Busters

Spangled Perch

Leiopotherapon unicolor

Size: Maximum about 30 cm

Distinguishing features: Elongated with body paler ventrally to silver, grey, or blue. Many reddish-brown spots over head and body. **Habitat:** Wide range, from flowing streams to ephemeral waterholes, very hardy species

Diet: Aquatic and terrestrial insects and larvae

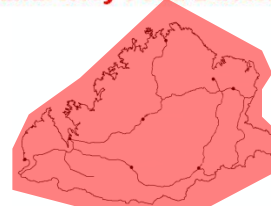
Distribution: Most widespread freshwater fish in Australia

including WA, NT, QLD, NSW and SA

Ref: Murdoch University, 2002 "Fishes of Lake Kununurra"

Allen, Midgley and Allen, 2002, "Field Guide to the Freshwater Fishes of Australia"

www.canetoads.com.au



Weed Brim, Butler's Grunter FISH 42



Butler's grunter
Syncomistes butleri

A. Rowland

“WHAT’S IN YOUR BACKYARD?”



Kimberley Toad Busters

Weed Brim, Butler's Grunter

Syncomistes butleri

Size: Maximum about 28 cm, commonly to 18-20 cm

Distinguishing features: Deep bodied with relatively small head and pointed snout. Reddish eye, forked caudal (tail) fin. Distinctive silver or golden stripe below eye.

Habitat: Fast or slow moving water, clear or turbid, mostly encountered in deeper sections of large watercourses

Diet: Filamentous algae

Distribution: East Kimberley to West Arnhem Land

Ref: Murdoch University, 2002 "Fishes of Lake Kununurra"

Allen, Midgley and Allen, 2002, "Field Guide to the Freshwater Fishes of Australia"

www.canetoads.com.au



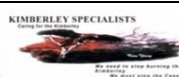
Kimberley Grunter

FISH 43

ONLY IN THE
KIMBERLEY

Searching for photo!

“WHAT’S IN YOUR BACKYARD?”



Kimberley Toad Busters

Kimberley Grunter

Syncomistes kimberleyensis

Size: Maximum at least 20 cm

Distinguishing features: Convex head with pointed snout. Caudal (tail) fin slightly forked. Bluish green in colour. Silver stripe below eye to snout and dark spot on upper edge of gills.

Habitat: Still or flowing water with aquatic vegetation

Diet: Not well known

Distribution: Uncommon, has only found in Durack, Pentecost and Bow Rivers

Ref: Allen, Midgley and Allen, 2002, "Field Guide to the Freshwater Fishes of Australia"

www.canetoads.com.au



Drysdale Grunter

FISH 44



© Neil Armstrong

“WHAT’S IN YOUR BACKYARD?”



Kimberley Toad Busters

Drysdale Grunter

Syncomistes rastellus

Size: Maximum 15 cm

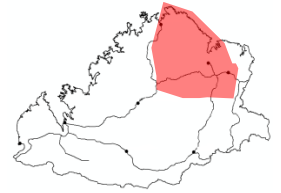
Distinguishing features: Distinct stripy pattern of dark lines along body. Lines faint for adult fish.

Habitat: Likes larger streams forming schools in rock pool

Diet: Filamentous algae

Distribution: Freshwater, has been found in Drysdale and Ord Rivers

Ref: Allen, Midgley and Allen, 2002, "Field Guide to the Freshwater Fishes of Australia"
www.canetoads.com.au



Merauke Toadfish

FISH 45



© Mark Allen

“WHAT’S IN YOUR BACKYARD?”



Kimberley Toad Busters

Merauke Toadfish

Marilyna meraukensis

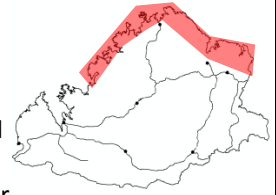
Size: Maximum about 19 cm

Distinguishing features: Skin is tough and scaleless. Ovate pufferfish with distinct nasal organ (widely separate flattened pair of nostrils). Can swallow air or water to 'puff up' to deter predators.

Habitat: Mangroves and tidal influenced sections of freshwater creeks and rivers

Distribution: Marine/estuaries, widespread from Prince Reagent River (Kimberley) to Cairns (QLD)

Ref: Allen, Midgley and Allen, 2002, "Field Guide to the Freshwater Fishes of Australia"
www.canetoads.com.au



Kimberley Archerfish

FISH 46



Marrbawool

Nyikina name

© David Morgan

“WHAT’S IN YOUR BACKYARD?”



Kimberley Toad Busters

Kimberley Archerfish

Toxotes spp. (formerly T. oligoleois)

Size: Maximum 18 cm

Distinguishing features: Large eyes. 5 dark bars or ovoid spots on upper side.

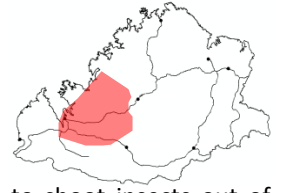
Able to squirt jet of water from mouth to shoot insects out of overhanging vegetation, great shot up to 3 metres.

Habitat: Rock pools with mud or sand bottoms, in turbid water

Diet: Aquatic and terrestrial insects, crustaceans and small fishes

Distribution: Freshwater, common in Fitzroy, Meda, May and Isdel Rivers

Ref: Allen, Midgley and Allen, 2002, "Field Guide to the Freshwater Fishes of Australia"
www.canetoads.com.au



Seven-spot Archerfish

FISH 47



Seven-spot archerfish

Toxotes chatareus

D. Morgan

“WHAT’S IN YOUR BACKYARD?”



Kimberley Toad Busters

Seven-spot archerfish

Toxotes chatareus

Size: Maximum about 40 cm, common to 25 cm

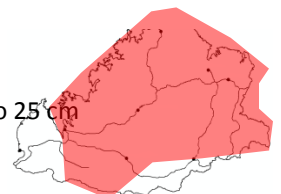
Distinguishing features: Large eyes.

Overall 6 – 7 irregular black blotches or short bands on upper body. Able to squirt jet of water from mouth to shoot insects out of overhanging vegetation, great shot up to 3 metres. **Habitat:** Near edge and surface of freshwater stream and lakes, near overhanging vegetation

Diet: Aquatic and terrestrial insects, crustaceans and small fishes

Distribution: Freshwater, common through Northern Australia

Ref: Murdoch University, 2002 "Fishes of Lake Kununurra"
Allen, Midgley and Allen, 2002, "Field Guide to the Freshwater Fishes of Australia"
www.canetoads.com.au



Western Rainbow

FISH 48



“WHAT’S IN YOUR BACKYARD?”



Kimberley Toad Busters

Western Rainbow

Melanotaenia australis

Size: Maximum about 11 cm, commonly to 8 cm

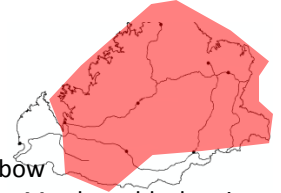
Distinguishing features: Mid-lateral rainbow stripes corresponding with each scale row. May have black stripes along sides depending on location.

Habitat: Highly variable, from rivers, lakes, creeks, reservoirs, stream margins and near vegetation

Distribution: Freshwater, usually abundant in Kimberley and Pilbara

Ref: Murdoch University, 2002 “Fishes of Lake Kununurra”

Allen, Midgley and Allen, 2002, “Field Guide to the Freshwater Fishes of Australia”



Exquisite Rainbowfish

FISH 49

ONLY IN THE
KIMBERLEY

“WHAT’S IN YOUR BACKYARD?”



Kimberley Toad Busters

Exquisite Rainbowfish

Melanotaenia exquisita

Size: Maximum about 8 cm

Distinguishing features: Beautiful light and dark rainbow stripes down each side corresponding with each scale row. Male has red edge to fins.

Habitat: Small, swift flowing rocky streams. Can be found above waterfalls

Distribution: King George River and also in headwaters of Daly River (NT).

Ref: Allen, Midgley and Allen, 2002, “Field Guide to the Freshwater Fishes of Australia”

www.canetoads.com.au



Slender Rainbowfish

FISH 50

ONLY IN THE
KIMBERLEY

“WHAT’S IN YOUR BACKYARD?”



Kimberley Toad Busters

Slender Rainbowfish

Melanotaenia gracilis

Size: Maximum about 7 cm

Distinguishing features: Greenish brown back and upper sides; light purple under side; dark mid-lateral stripe. Yellow edge to fins, males also red fins.

Habitat: Slow flowing sandy creeks lined with Pandanus.

Distribution: Common in Drysdale and King Edward Rivers, only in the Kimberley.

Ref: Allen, Midgley and Allen, 2002, “Field Guide to the Freshwater Fishes of Australia”

www.canetoads.com.au



Blackbanded Rainbowfish

FISH 51

ONLY IN THE
KIMBERLEY

“WHAT’S IN YOUR BACKYARD?”



Kimberley Toad Busters

Blackbanded Rainbowfish

Melanotaenia nigrans

Size: Maximum about 8 cm

Distinguishing features: Body grey brown with blue tinge. Pale on lower side. Distinct single black mid-lateral stripe. Males can have reddish fins.

Habitat: Slow streams in rainforests, lily lagoons or swamps.

Distribution: Locally common around Napier Broome Bay, NT coast and tip of Cape York.

Ref: Allen, Midgley and Allen, 2002, “Field Guide to the Freshwater Fishes of Australia”

www.canetoads.com.au



Pigmy Rainbowfish

FISH 52



KIMBERLEY SPECIALISTS



Kimberley Toad Busters

ONLY IN THE
KIMBERLEY

“WHAT’S IN YOUR BACKYARD?”

Pigmy Rainbowfish

Melanotaenia pygmaea

Size: Maximum about 5.5 cm, commonly less than 4 cm

Distinguishing features: Small in size; metallic blue upper sides and pale underside; blackish mid-lateral stripe; yellow to white fins; males have hump at top of head; found in schools of up to 50.

Habitat: Pools and small streams in sandstone escarpments.

Distribution: Locally common in two tributaries of Prince Regent River.

Ref: Allen, Midgley and Allen, 2002, “Field Guide to the Freshwater Fishes of Australia”
www.canetoads.com.au

