### bigmouth shiner

### Notropis dorsalis

Kingdom: Animalia Phylum: Chordata Class: Actinopterygii Order: Cypriniformes Family: Leuciscidae

### **ILLINOIS STATUS**

common, native

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adult

### **ILLINOIS RANGE**

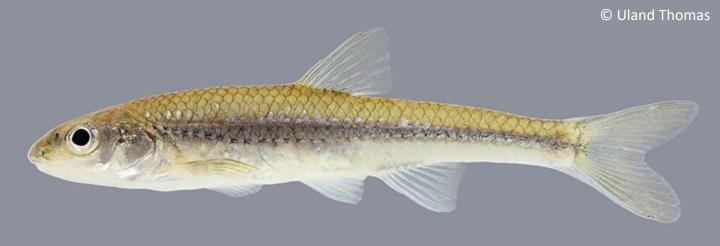


#### **FEATURES**

The bigmouth shiner is about two and one-half to three inches in length. It is green-yellow on the back and upper sides, silver on the lower sides and silver-white on the belly. The fins do not have color. A pair of dark crescents can be seen between the nostrils when viewed from above. The dark stripe in front of the dorsal fin is of equal width along its entire length. The breeding male has very small tubercles (bumps) on the head, front of the body and pectoral fins. Eight rays are present in the anal fin. There are teeth in the throat. The large mouth extends backward to the front edge of the eye. The front edge of the dorsal fin is located almost exactly above the front edge of the pelvic fins. The small eyes are directed slightly upward.

#### **BEHAVIORS**

The bigmouth shiner is a prairie species. It may be found in the northern two-thirds of Illinois plus the Mississippi River border counties. It lives in shallow water in creeks and small rivers. This fish is particularly plentiful in sand-bottomed creeks that lack shade. Spawning occurs from May through August. It swims in schools just above the bottom, where it feeds on insects. This fish has a life span of two to three years.



# **Aquatic Habitats**

rivers and streams

### **Woodland Habitats**

none

## **Prairie and Edge Habitats**

black soil prairie; dolomite prairie; edge; gravel prairie; hill prairie; sand prairie; shrub prairie