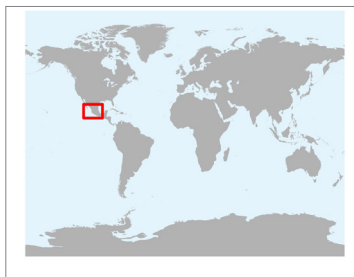




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Geographical range

Species of the Day: Tequila Splitfin

The **Tequila Splitfin**, *Zoogoneticus tequila*, is listed as 'Critically Endangered' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. Believed 'Extinct in the Wild' until its rediscovery in 2003, this fish, named after the Tequila Volcano to the north of its range, is known from just one tiny pool at Teuchitlán, Mexico.

The remaining wild population of the Tequila Splitfin consists of fewer than 500 individuals, less than 50 of which are mature adults. Its original decline in the Teuchitlán River has been attributed to the introduction of exotic fish and habitat degradation due to the building of a dam. Native fish populations have also been fragmented, as the springs they were confined to have been turned into spas. In addition, the Tequila Splitfin is under threat from intensive collection for the aquarium trade, and by pollution and water extraction in its one remaining pool.

The Tequila Splitfin is kept in captivity in North America and Europe, and a breeding programme has been recommended so that the species can be re-introduced into further, larger pools. Legal protection is also needed, as is a control in international trade.

The **4th International Zoo and Aquarium Symposium** is being held in Chester, 4th to 7th November, 2010.

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