

BLUESTRIPE SHINER

Cyprinella callitaenia

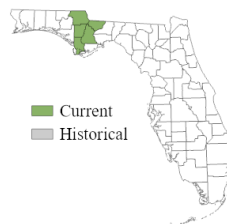
Order: Cypriniformes

Family: Cyprinidae

FNAI Ranks: G2G3/S2

U.S. Status: none

FL Status: none



Description: Small fish to 9 cm long with diamond-shaped scales with an olive dorsal coloration transitioning to silver along the sides. At the base of the caudal fin is a small, sometimes indistinct, black spot. A wide bluish stripe roughly follows the lateral line on each side, especially pronounced in males. The mouth has a subterminal opening. There is a dark spot that extends forward from the eye to the nostril and upper lip. Breeding males have two distinctly separated semi-linear rows of tubercles on the head.

Similar Species: The Blacktail Shiner (*Cyprinella venusta*) grows to 19 cm and has a more prominent black spot at the base of the caudal fin. The head of the Blacktail Shiner has a terminal mouth opening, pointier nose, and has a silvery reflective surface in front of the eye. Breeding males have tubercles scattered on the head. The Bannerfin Shiner (*Cyprinella leedsi*) lacks a black spot at the base of the caudal fin.

Habitat: In Florida, found only in the Apalachicola and Chipola Rivers in sections with inorganic substrates and little to no aquatic vegetation. Avoids mud bottoms. Males defend territories with rocky crevices where females will lay eggs.

Seasonal Occurrence: Present year-round.

Florida Distribution: Known only from the Apalachicola River between the Jim Woodruff Dam and the SR-20 bridge at Bristol in Gadsden, Jackson, Calhoun and Liberty Counties. Also occurs in the Chattahoochee River in Jackson County. The species is endemic to the Apalachicola River drainage, occurring in the Flint, Chattahoochee, and Apalachicola Rivers.

Range-wide Distribution: Only found in the Chattahoochee-Flint-Apalachicola River system and some of its tributaries in Alabama, Georgia, and Florida.

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Conservation Status: Assessed and found not warranting legal protection by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Protection and Management: Maintain natural characteristics of unmodified habitat and adequate water quality, and prevent further habitat modification.

References: Robins et al. 2018



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