

Topmouth gudgeon

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Species Description

Scientific name: *Pseudorasbora parva*

AKA: False harlequin, Stone moroko, Clicker barb, Japanese minnow

Native to: East Asia, China, Japan, Amur River Basin

Habitat: Margins of still or slow moving waters; rivers, canals, ditches and drains.

Topmouth gudgeon is a small slender freshwater fish, usually 4 – 8cm in length. It is generally iridescent silvery blue with a thin dark purple-blue stripe running along the lateral line. Scales are quite large, with dark edges. It has a small high-set mouth with an upturned lower jaw. It has a deeply forked tail and does not have barbels.

P. parva is omnivorous, feeding on small aquatic invertebrates, crustaceans, and the eggs and young of native fish. It omits an audible 'click' when feeding (from which it derives its other name 'Clicker barb'). Topmouth gudgeon is not present in Northern Ireland. Releases and escapes from ornamental trade is the most likely pathway into Northern Ireland for this species. Contaminated fish stockings are also a known pathway, which has led to a number of established populations in England.

Topmouth gudgeon can have 4 batches of eggs per year and where it becomes established they can form very high densities. It can out-compete native fish for food, habitat and spawning areas. It is a vector of diseases and can also become a pest species for recreational anglers.

Under the Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order (Northern Ireland) 2019 it is offence to intentionally keep; breed; transport to, from or within Northern Ireland, use or exchange Topmouth gudgeon; or to release it into the environment.

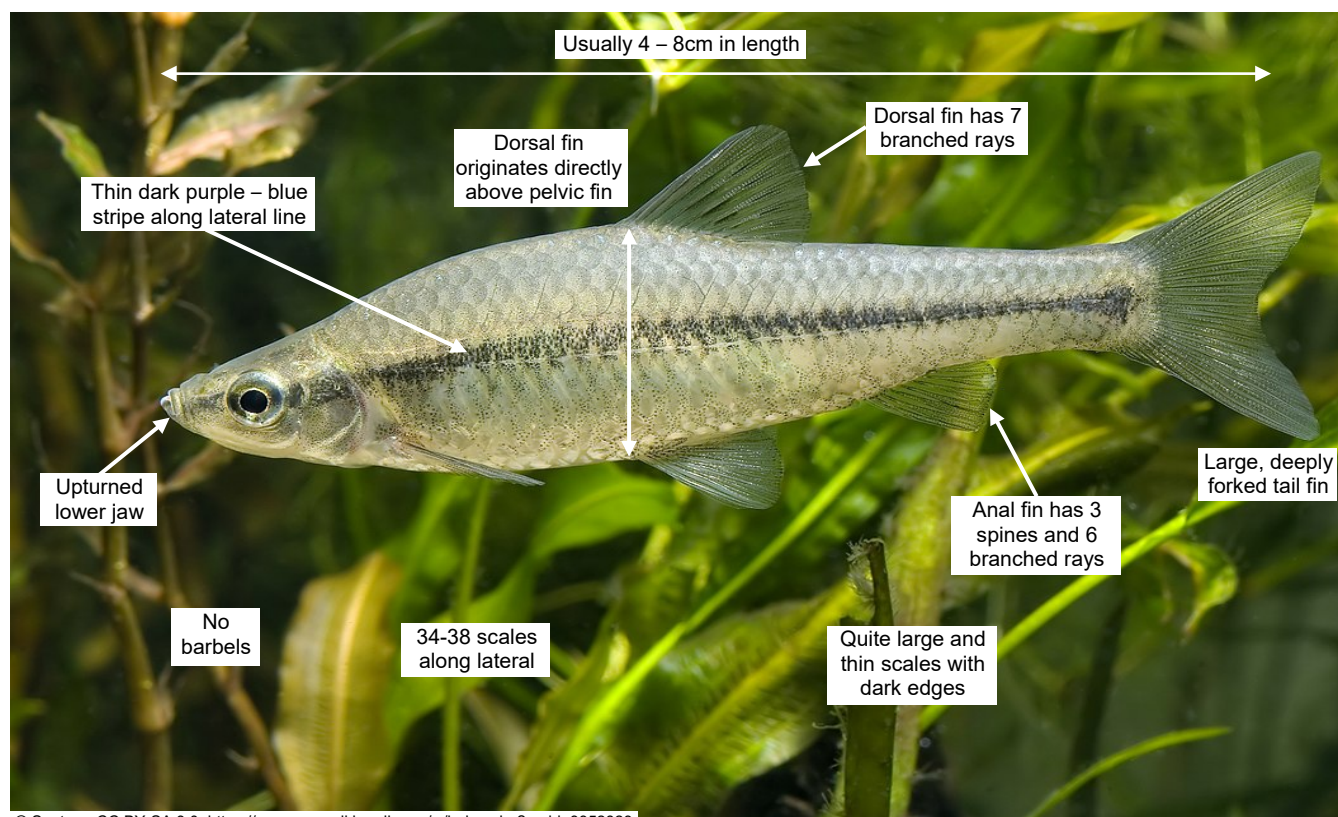


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Key ID Features



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Report any sightings via; CEDaR Online Recording - <https://www2.habitas.org.uk/records/ISI>, iRecord app or Invasive Species Northern Ireland website - <http://invasivespeciesni.co.uk/report-sighting>

Similar Species

Common minnow

Native
(*Phoxinus phoxinus*)



6 – 10cm
in length

80 – 100 scales
along lateral line

Distinctive gold
and black stripe
along side

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Distribution

Not present in Northern Ireland. Several well established populations in still waters southern England.



Source NBN Atlas –

<https://species.nbnatlas.org/species/NHMSYS0000544730>

Check website for current distribution



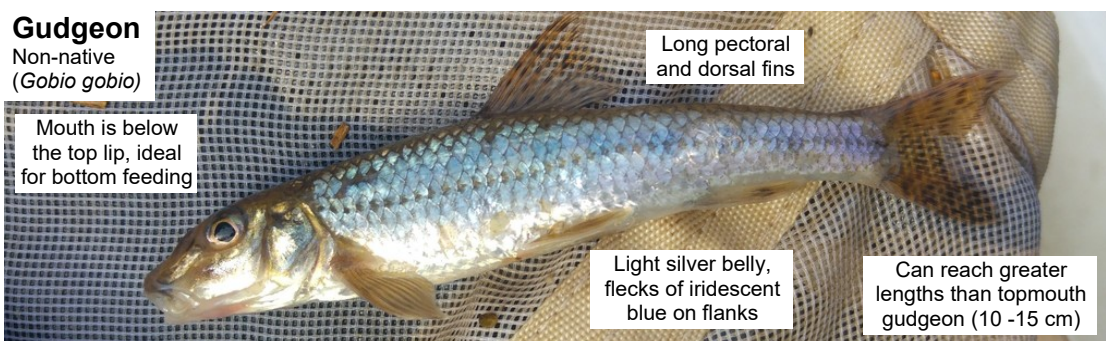
Numerous
black and
brown blotches
along sides

Dorsal fin base
overlaps origin
of anal fin

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Gudgeon

Non-native
(*Gobio gobio*)



Mouth is below
the top lip, ideal
for bottom feeding

Long pectoral
and dorsal fins

Light silver belly,
fleck of iridescent
blue on flanks

Can reach greater
lengths than topmouth
gudgeon (10 -15 cm)

Bronze – green
colouration on back

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Small barbels at
edge of mouth



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References and further reading:

CADI *Pseudorasbora parva* (topmouth gudgeon) data sheet -
<https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/67983>

Booy O., Wade M. and Roy H. 2015. Field Guide to Invasive
Plants and Animals in Britain. Bloomsbury. London.