



Banded Kokopu



Funded through the LEOTC project



the ROYAL
SOCIETY of
NEW ZEALAND

Banded Kokopu

Galaxias fasciatus

kokopu

Size

Commonly 20 cm but can reach 26 cm.

Habitat

Although **solitary** by nature, these fish are often found together in the pools of swift, shady streams, with plenty of overhanging vegetation. Streams through native bush are ideal.

Feeding Habits

Carnivore – much of the banded kokopu's diet comes from land insects that fall into the stream, but it also eats the larvae of **aquatic** insects.

Special Features

- The bands on the fish's body are pale and distinctive.
- The young kokopu form part of the whitebait runs and are very good climbers, so they can go quite a long way inland up rivers.

- Adult fish lay thousands of eggs in the leaf litter on creek's edges; tiny larvae hatch and head for the sea where they develop for about 4 months and then return up their rivers as whitebait.
- The banded kokopu has a long mouth which comes back to right under its eyes.

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The banded kokopu is the most common kokopu but its numbers are decreasing. Why do you think this is?



Typical Size