



Common Bully



Funded through the LEOTC project



Common Bully

Gobiomorphus cotidianus

Size

It is quite common for bullies to be 10 cm and they can reach 15 cm.

Habitat

The Common Bully is found in flowing water, pools and lakes, and while it is not very good at climbing up waterfalls, it is still found a long way inland.

Feeding Habits

Carnivore – a **predator** who lies in ambush and gobbles up **aquatic** insect larvae, small fish, **crustaceans** and molluscs.

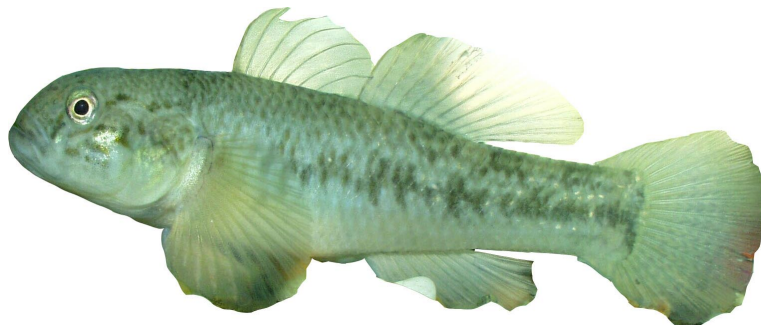
Special Features

- The Common Bully is a master of **camouflage** and its colours can range from almost no patterns to heavily blotched, striped or spotted. The intensity of the colour can change depending on its background.

- The female lays her eggs in the male's **territory** and he fertilises and guards them. When they hatch, the tiny larvae go out to sea for about 4 months and then return up the rivers to breed when they are about a year old.
- Common bullies that are cut off from the sea can still complete their life cycle.

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As the name suggests, the Common Bully is widespread and successful in NZ. Can you find adaptive features that might help it to survive so well? (hint – look at the way its life cycle can work)



Typical Size