

Crimsonspotted Rainbowfish

Melanotaenia duboulayi

A fish species historically found in the Bundamba Creek, this small native fish helps to maintain a healthy river system and is effective at reducing mosquito larvae.

The Crimsonspotted Rainbowfish reaches a maximum length of only 90mm. They have two dorsal fins edged in black and a forked tail. Interestingly, the colouration of these fish varies with sex, age and habitat. Generally their colour will be an iridescent silvery-green with males having red spots and small red stripes on their dorsal, caudal and anal fins.

Crimsonspotted Rainbowfish can be found in fresh water creeks and rivers and like to school in groups of around 20-30 individuals. You can see them around sub-surface vegetation areas in the mid to higher depths of the water.

Breeding will occur when water temperatures are warmer in the spring/summer with males performing an elaborate courtship display. Females will lay on average 130 eggs over a few days with new individuals reaching maturity in around 10-12 months.

This species is carnivorous and will feed on very small aquatic invertebrates and larvae including small insects which may fall on the surface of the water.

The main threats to the Crimsonspotted Rainbowfish are loss of aquatic vegetation and pollution.

<http://australianmuseum.net.au/Crimsonspotted-Rainbowfish-Melanotaenia-duboulayi-Castelnau-1878/>

Queensland Museum 2007, *Wildlife of Greater Brisbane*, Queensland Museum, Australia.

Lintermans, M 2009, *Fishes of the Murray-Darling Basin: An Introductory Guide*, Murray Darling Basin Authority, Canberra.