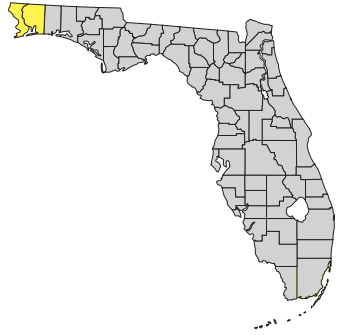


CRYSTAL DARTER

Crystallaria asprella

Order:	Perciformes
Family:	Percidae
FNAI Ranks:	G3/S1
U.S. Status:	None
FL Status:	Threatened



© Patrick E. O'Neil, Alabama Geological Survey

Description: A large darter, up to 6 in. (152 mm), with a slender body; wide, laterally compressed head; small mouth; and large eye. The general body color is olive-brown with three to four darker saddle marks.

Similar Species: None of the sand darter species exhibit saddle marks, and all are much smaller in size.

Habitat: Moderate to swift currents in medium to larger rivers with sandy riffles, bars, and flowing pool bottoms; restricted to areas with a combination of sand and fine gravel bottom.

Seasonal Occurrence: Present in all seasons.

Florida Distribution: Known only from the Escambia River drainage near the Alabama state line, where they are very rare. Recent records from Florida are lacking.

Range-wide Distribution: Much of Mississippi River Basin from Wisconsin southward to Gulf of Mexico and along the Gulf coast in Escambia and Pearl River drainages and Mobile Bay.

CRYSTAL DARTER

Crystallaria asprella

Conservation Status: Distribution is sporadic, not abundant anywhere within entire range; species common only in a few pristine streams. Declining throughout much of range and extirpated in many states, including Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois.

Protection and Management: Prevent damming, channelization, siltation, and pollution of rivers where species occurs.

Selected References: Gilbert (ed.) 1992, Hoehn 1998, Mettee et al. 1996, Page and Burr 1998.



© Joe Tomelleri