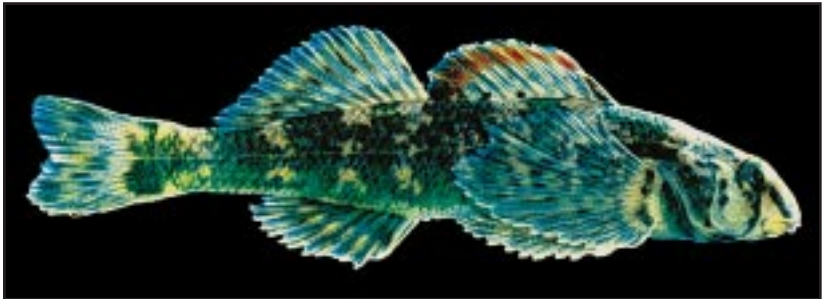
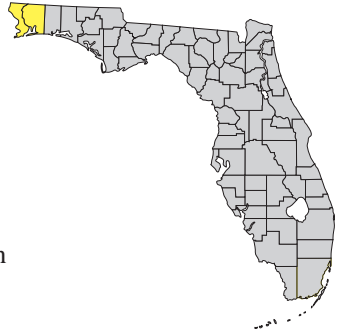


HARLEQUIN DARTER

Etheostoma histrio

Order:	Perciformes
Family:	Percidae
FNAI Ranks:	G5/S1
U.S. Status:	None
FL Status:	Species of Special Concern



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Description: Small, typically 2 - 3 in. (51 - 76 mm), very colorful darter. Dorsal surface is black and green with red/brown blotching and six or seven lighter-colored saddles. Most fins are heavily spotted; first dorsal fin clear with a burgundy margin. Ventral surface yellow with dark speckling. Breeding male is emerald green with dark mottling.

Similar Species: None in Florida.

Habitat: Accumulations of leaves and debris over sand or gravel in raceways and riffles of rivers and large creeks. In Florida, snags and other large woody debris have been found to be important habitat types.

Seasonal Occurrence: Present in all seasons.

Florida Distribution: Known only from the Escambia River and its major tributaries.

Range-wide Distribution: Lower Mississippi Basin and Gulf drainages from western Florida to eastern Texas, northward to southwestern Kentucky; primarily below the Fall Line.

HARLEQUIN DARTER

Etheostoma histrio

Conservation Status: Range-wide, the species is distributed widely but is generally not abundant; no trends have been reported. In Florida, five of the six known Escambia River watershed localities have been degraded; seems to be well established only at Big Escambia Creek.

Protection and Management: Conduct surveys to better determine the species distribution in northwestern Florida. Due to the limited distribution in Florida and the susceptibility of large rivers to degradation, all efforts should be made to conserve the known Escambia watershed localities.

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



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