

Stone moroko

Pseudorasbora parva

Description

Introduced into ponds in the 1960s throughout Europe. They are the carrier of a parasite (*Sphaerothecum destruens*) that can negatively impact native fish populations.

Identification

Elongate body, slightly flattened on sides, resembling the *Gobio* species. Up to 110 mm. , mouth in top position with short dorsal and anal fins. Caudal fin is large and deeply incised. Grey back, pale sides/belly. Characteristic lunate spots in caudal part of scales. Fins pale with a darker stripe running obliquely backwards on dorsal fin.

Habitat

Native to east Asia, western and southern parts of the Korean Peninsula and Taiwan. Prefers well vegetated small channels, ponds and small lakes. Adults occur in cool, shallow water, either still or slow-flowing.

Reproduction





Spawning takes place at 1 year of age, requiring water temps of 60-66 degrees F. Females produce a few hundred to a few thousand eggs. Spawning can take place 3-4 times per season. Eggs are laid on plants, sand, stones, and mollusk shells which the female cleans prior to egg-laying. Several dozen eggs are laid at once and the males guard the eggs until they hatch.

Impact

Competes for food with native and farmed fish species, plus competition for space and spawning habitat. It is a vector of infectious diseases such as *Sphaerotecum destruens*, *Anguillicola crassus* and *Clinostomum complanatum* as well as a carrier of Pike Fry Rhabdovirus (PFR). It also consumes large amounts of zooplankton which results in an increase in phytoplankton abundance, and subsequent increase in eutrophication.

Similar

Monitoring and Rapid Response

One population in England was eradicated using rotenone.

Credits

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