



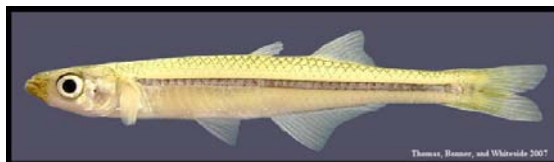
inland silverside

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Common Name	inland silverside
Genus & Species	<i>Menidia beryllina</i>
Family	Atherinidae (silversides)
Order	Atheriniformes (silversides)
Class	Actinopterygii (ray-finned fishes)

Diagnosis: Inland silversides are characterized by 2 widely separated dorsal fins, the 1st is small and has spines. Scales in lateral series are 34-41, anal fin has 1 spine and 15-20 rays. Gill rakers are 18-20. This species has a long snout and long sickle shaped anal fin.



Dorsolateral coloration above the silver lateral stripe ranges from pale yellowish to translucent green. Maximum length is 15cm.

Ecology: The inland silverside is a euryhaline species occurring in both brackish coastal waters and freshwater rivers and lakes. This species usually schools near the surface in larger rivers. Fecundity is 1,000 eggs per female. Young grow to around 60mm by their first winter and 100mm by their second summer. Lifespan is typically only 2 years. Diet consists of zooplankton, midge and mayfly larvae and terrestrial insects. Inland silversides are a significant food source for such species as white and yellow bass and largemouth bass.

Habitat & Distribution: The range of inland silversides is the Atlantic and Gulf Slopes from New England to Mexico and extending up the Mississippi River to southern Illinois. Inland silversides are a marine species that ascends rivers. In freshwater, they are usually found at the surface of clear, quiet water over sand or gravel.

Status: Inland silversides are extremely close to inter-basin connections. A specimen was collected in Will County, IL near the mouth of the Kankakee River, which is just downstream of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Barrier on the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal.

USGS Fact Sheet: <http://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/FactSheet.aspx?SpeciesID=321>