

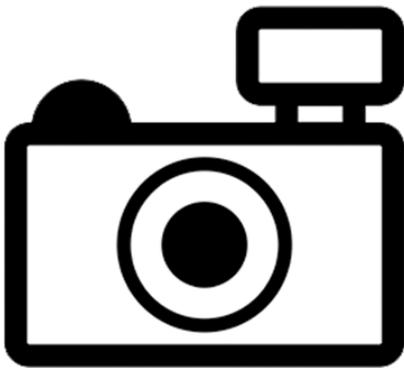
# *Metynnis otuquensis* (a fish, no common name)

## Ecological Risk Screening Summary

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, March 2013

Revised, February 2018

Web Version, 8/24/2018



No Photo Available

## 1 Native Range and Status in the United States

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### Native Range

From Froese and Pauly (2017):

“South America: Otuquis River in Paraguay River basin [Bolivia, Paraguay].”

### Status in the United States

There are no records of occurrences of *Metynnis otuquensis* in the United States; however, Nico et al. (2018) report that the genus *Metynnis* (species uncertain) is locally established in Florida.

From Nico et al. (2018):

“A member of this genus [*Metynnis*] was collected in **Florida** from a lake on Marco Island, Collier County in January, 1980 (FSBC 19822; listed as *Metynnis lippincotianus* in Courtenay et al. 1984, and as *Metynnis* sp. in Courtenay and Stauffer 1990 and in Courtenay et al. 1991). A reproducing population was found in Halpatoiokee Regional Park Conservation Area in Martin County in 2005, with additional specimens taken in 2006 and 2007 (Shafland et al. 2008; Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission 2009). In **Kentucky**, a single fish (originally

identified as a piranha and as *Metynnis roosevelti*) was taken by hook and line from Lighthouse Lake, Louisville, Jefferson County, in the summer of 1981 (Anonymous 1981; Fossett 1981).”

“There is considerable confusion surrounding the Kentucky record. In original published accounts, the fish was identified as a piranha, but the scientific name provided was *Metynnis roosevelti* (= *Metynnis maculatus*). However, in a photograph of the fish accompanying the newspaper article (Fossett 1981), the specimen actually appears to have a short adipose fin and is probably a pacu, possibly *Piaractus brachypomus*. The collectors gave the live fish to the Louisville Zoo, where it was kept in aquaria; when the fish later died, it was supposedly not preserved. The Kentucky specimen has been the basis for inclusion of the species in published lists of nonestablished foreign species, with earlier listings identifying it as *Metynnis roosevelti* (e.g., Courtenay et al. 1984) and later simply as *Metynnis* sp. (i.e., Courtenay and Stauffer 1990; Courtenay et al. 1991).”

*M. otuquensis* was not found for sale in a search of several online aquarium retailers in the United States.

## Means of Introductions in the United States

From Nico et al. (2018):

“Records [for *Metynnis* sp.] mostly likely represent aquarium releases.”

## Remarks

This species is often referred to as some variation of ‘silver dollar’ fish, although this term likely represents many species in the genus *Metynnis*.

From Ota et al. (2016):

“Taxonomic confusion is rife in the literature dealing with *Metynnis* species. There are 28 nominal species and only around half of them are recognized as valid. The elevated number of synonyms is probably a consequence of the enormous variability of body shape and color pattern, which in turn are highly influenced by ontogeny and sexual dimorphism (Zarske & Géry, 1999; Jégu, 2003; Pavanelli et al., 2009; Ota et al., 2013). As a consequence, there is little information about the phylogenetic relationships among species of *Metynnis*.”

## 2 Biology and Ecology

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### Taxonomic Hierarchy and Taxonomic Standing

From ITIS (2018):

“Kingdom Animalia  
Subkingdom Bilateria  
Infrakingdom Deuterostomia  
Phylum Chordata  
Subphylum Vertebrata

Infraphylum Gnathostomata  
Superclass Actinopterygii  
Class Teleostei  
Superorder Ostariophysi  
Order Characiformes  
Family Characidae  
Genus *Metynnis*  
Species *Metynnis otuquensis* (Ahl, 1923)”

“Current Standing: valid”

### **Size, Weight, and Age Range**

From Foese and Pauly (2017):

“Max length : 8.7 cm SL male/unsexed; [Zarske and Gery 1999]”

### **Environment**

From Froese and Pauly (2017):

“Freshwater; pelagic.”

### **Climate/Range**

From Froese and Pauly (2017).

“Tropical”

### **Distribution Outside the United States**

Native

From Froese and Pauly (2017):

“South America: Otuquis River in Paraguay River basin [Bolivia, Paraguay].”

Introduced

No introductions of this species have been reported.

### **Means of Introduction Outside the United States**

No introductions of this species have been reported.

### **Short Description**

From Nico et al. (2018):

“[...] members of the genus *Metynnis* are characterized by their long-based adipose fins [...]”

## **Biology**

From Mol (2012):

“In [...] *Metynniss*, [...] teeth are molariform, heavily attached to the jaw, and mainly used to grind fruits and seeds.”

“During the breeding period, [...] *Metynniss* [...] exhibit sexual dimorphism in the form of a supplementary lobe of the anal fin, dorsal fin rays elongated into long filaments or a red pattern on the body.”

## **Human Uses**

From Nico et al. (2018):

“Several *Metynniss* species are popular aquarium fishes.”

*M. otuquensis* was not found for sale in a search of several online aquarium retailers.

## **Diseases**

No information available. No OIE-reportable diseases have been documented for this species.

## **Threat to Humans**

From Froese and Pauly (2017):

“Harmless”

## **3 Impacts of Introductions**

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There are currently no recorded introductions or impacts of introductions of *Metynniss otuquensis*, however unidentified species of *Metynniss* are listed as locally established in Florida (Nico et al. 2018).

## 4 Global Distribution

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**Figure 1.** Known global distribution of *Metynnis otuquensis*, reported from Paraguay. Map from GBIF Secretariat (2017). Georeferenced locations were not available for the part of the species range in Bolivia.

## 5 Distribution Within the United States

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There is currently no known distribution of *Metynnis otuquensis* within the United States; however, unidentified species of *Metynnis* are listed as locally established in Florida.

## 6 Climate Matching

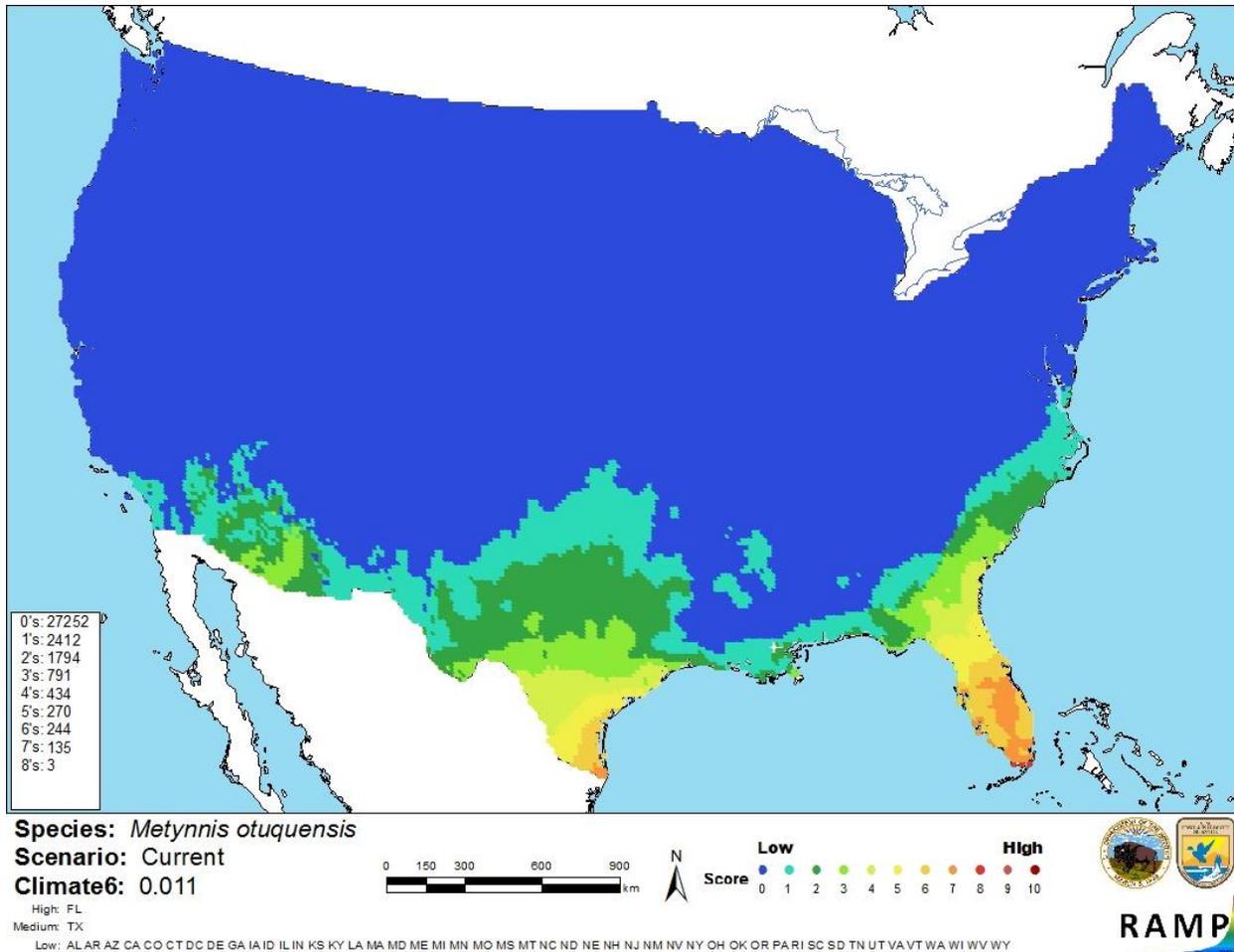
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### Summary of Climate Matching Analysis

The climate match (Sanders et al. 2014; 16 climate variables; Euclidean distance) was mostly medium in peninsular Florida and southern Texas, with patches of high match in extreme southern Texas and parts of southern Florida. The remainder of the contiguous United States had a low climate match. The Climate 6 score indicated a medium climate match overall for the contiguous United States. Scores between 0.005 and 0.103 are classified as a medium match; the Climate 6 score for *Metynnis otuquensis* was 0.011.



**Figure 2.** RAMP (Sanders et al. 2014) source map showing weather stations as source locations (red; Brazil and Paraguay) and non-source locations (gray) for *Metynnis otuquensis* climate matching. Source locations from GBIF Secretariat (2017). Selected source locations are within 100 km of one or more species occurrences, and do not necessarily represent the locations of occurrences themselves.



**Figure 3.** Map of RAMP (Sanders et al. 2014) climate matches for *Metynnis otuquensis* in the contiguous United States based on source locations reported by GBIF Secretariat (2017). 0= Lowest match, 10= Highest match.

The “High”, “Medium”, and “Low” climate match categories are based on the following table:

Climate 6: Proportion of (Sum of Climate Scores 6-10) / (Sum of total Climate Scores)	Climate Match Category
$0.000 \leq X \leq 0.005$	Low
$0.005 < X < 0.103$	Medium
$\geq 0.103$	High

## 7 Certainty of Assessment

Peer-reviewed literature on the biology, ecology and distribution of *Metynnis otuquensis* is limited. No introductions of this species have been reported, so impacts of introduction are unknown. Assessment of this species is complicated due to uncertain identification of *Metynnis* spp. captured and established in the United States, and the need for systematic revision of the genus. Additional information and research on this species will be needed to increase the certainty of this assessment. Based on available data, the certainty of this assessment is low.

## 8 Risk Assessment

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### Summary of Risk to the Contiguous United States

*Metynnis otuquensis* is a fish native to the Paraguay River basin in central South America. *Metynnis* species are very popular in the aquarium trade, although *M. otuquensis* was not found for sale from U.S.-based online aquarium retailers. *Metynnis otuquensis* has a medium climate match in the contiguous United States, with a medium to high climate match in Florida and southern Texas. There are no reports of introductions of *M. otuquensis*. However, members of the *Metynnis* genus (species identification uncertain) have been collected beyond their native range in Florida, where their status is listed as locally established. *Metynnis* spp. found in Florida are believed to be aquarium releases. Therefore, the history of invasiveness of *M. otuquensis* in the contiguous United States is uncertain. Certainty of assessment is low because of taxonomic confusion and a lack of information. The overall risk posed by *M. otuquensis* is uncertain.

### Assessment Elements

- **History of Invasiveness (Sec. 3): Uncertain**
- **Climate Match (Sec. 6): Medium**
- **Certainty of Assessment (Sec. 7): Low**
- **Overall Risk Assessment Category: Uncertain**

## 9 References

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**Note: The following references were accessed for this ERSS. References cited within quoted text but not accessed are included below in Section 10.**

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**Note: The following references are cited within quoted text within this ERSS, but were not accessed for its preparation. They are included here to provide the reader with more information.**

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