

YAQUI TOPMINNOW
(Poeciliopsis occidentalis sonoriensis)

STATUS: Endangered (32 FR 4001, March 11, 1967) without critical habitat.

SPECIES DESCRIPTION: A small (5 cm (2 in) long) guppy-like, live bearing fish (lacking dark spots on fins). Breeding males are jet black with yellow fins.

HABITAT: Inhabits small to moderate-sized streams, springs, and cienegas below 1,360 m (4,500 ft) elevation. It is found primarily in shallow areas with aquatic vegetation or debris. It can tolerate relatively high water temperatures and low dissolved oxygen.

RANGE: Historical: Occurred in the Yaqui, Matape, and Mayo rivers in Sonora, Mexico, and Cochise County, Arizona.

Current: Present in the United States in several natural or introduced populations in the main portion of the San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge in Cochise County, Arizona. An introduced population is also found in Leslie Canyon in the Swisshelm Mountains, Arizona. Natural populations persist in Mexico in the Yaqui, Mayo, and Matape rivers.

REASONS FOR DECLINE/VULNERABILITY: Endangered as a result of the loss of springs, river backwaters, and small stream habitat. Competition with introduced mosquitofish (*Gambusia affinis*) in remaining habitats is also a major threat to species survival.

LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge.

NOTES: A Recovery Plan for the Sonoran topminnow (Yaqui and Gila subspecies) was completed in March 1984 and revised in the Yaqui Fishes Recovery Plan in March 1995.

Listed as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need by the State of Arizona.