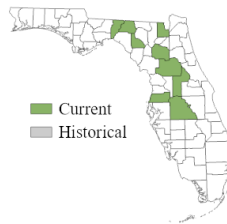


BLACKBANDED SUNFISH

Enneacanthus chaetodon

Order: Perciformes
Family: Centrarchidae
FNAI Ranks: G3G4/S1S3
U.S. Status: none
FL Status: none



Description: A small sunfish growing to 3-1/4in (8cm) with 6 dark vertical bars on the head and side of the body, a dark blotch at the first rays of the dorsal fin, and reddish coloration at the first rays of the pelvic fin.

Similar Species: Two other *Enneacanthus* species are found in Florida, *E. gloriosus* and *E. obesus* both both lack the dark vertical bars, dark area at the first dorsal rays, and reddish coloration on the pelvic fin.

Habitat: In Florida restricted

Seasonal Occurrence: Present in all seasons, although fish may be more easily captured when they are naturally concentrated during periods of low water.

Florida Distribution: Specimens have been collected from Jefferson county to the west, Baker County to the east and south to Pasco County.

Range-wide Distribution: This species occurs in North American Atlantic and Gulf slope drainages (primarily below the Fall Line) from New Jersey to central Florida, and west to the Flint River, Georgia; absent from several drainages within this range (Page and Burr 2011).

Conservation Status: Black banded sunfish are patchily distributed in Florida, as they are in the rest of their range, and they are never common in samples. Due to their ability to occupy very small, heavily vegetated water bodies, this rarity could be partially due to the difficulty of sampling for the fish however, many locations where the fish were previously collected have been repeatedly sampled without success. The preferred habitat of the fish appears common, but their rarity makes determination of their precise habitat needs difficult. Some locations where the fish have been collected repeatedly are subject to the threats of habitat alteration and

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lowering of lake levels due to ground water withdrawals

Protection and Management: Maintain water quality and natural characteristics of habitat.

References: Page and Burr 2011, Robins et al. 2018



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