



Iowa Darter *Etheostoma exile*



Characteristics

- slender body; long, narrow caudal peduncle
- tan above; dark brown mottling, often short bars on side
- snout rounded, short and blunt; its length less than diameter of eye
- cheeks and opercles scaled; definite, black teardrop
- 1st dorsal fin w/ blue edge and base, middle red band (faint on female)
- breeding male w/ orange belly, alternating blue and brick-red bars on side

Ecology and Distribution

- confirmed only in Lake Pleasant
- suspected in other glacial lakes & inflow/outflow tributaries



Photo by: Julie Zimmerman

Conservation – critically imperiled species in PA; efforts to confirm distribution & potential habitat assessment ongoing