



[http://zipcodezoo.com/Animals/E/Etheostoma\\_variatum.asp](http://zipcodezoo.com/Animals/E/Etheostoma_variatum.asp)

## Variegate Darter *Etheostoma variatum*



### Characteristics

- 4 large brown saddles angle down and forward to lateral line
- green & orange bars on side; large eye about equal to snout length
- 1<sup>st</sup> dorsal fin w/ red edge, middle blue band, & brown base
- no groove separating tip of upper jaw & snout
- mouth almost horizontal; head appears triangular in cross section
- cheeks & opercles scaleless; no teardrop



### Ecology and Distribution

- found in swift gravel & rubble riffles of small-medium rivers
- sensitive to siltation; found mainly in main stem & large tributaries of FCW