

Mosquito Fish: *Gambusia affinis*



Female



Male

Mosquito Fish are native to the Mississippi River and Gulf of Mexico basins where they feed readily on the aquatic larval and pupal stages of mosquitoes.

They are remarkably hardy, surviving in waters of very low oxygen saturations, high salinities (including twice that of seawater), and high temperatures; they can even survive in waters up to 108°F for short periods. For these reasons, this species may now be the most widespread freshwater fish in the world, having been introduced for biological control in tropical and temperate countries in both hemispheres.

The Mosquito Fish is small and stout, dull grey and quite robust, with a rounded tail and a terminal and upward-pointing mouth adapted for feeding at the water's surface. It is also a live-bearing species.