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[View Glo](#)**Cyprinella venusta** - Girard, 1856

Blacktail Shiner

Other Related Names: *Notropis venustus***Unique Identifier:** ELEMENT_GLOBAL.2.104896**Element Code:** AFCJB49210**Informal Taxonomy:** Animals, Vertebrates - Fishes - Bony Fishes - Minnows and Carps

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Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family	Genus
Animalia	Craniata	Actinopterygii	Cypriniformes	Cyprinidae	Cyprinella

Genus Size: D - Medium to large genus (21+ species)Check this box to expand all report sections: **Concept Reference****Concept Reference:**

Robins, C.R., R.M. Bailey, C.E. Bond, J.R. Brooker, E.A. Lachner, R.N. Lea, and W.B. Scott. 1991. Common and scientific names of fishes from the United States and Canada. American Fisheries Society, Special Publishing 20. 183 pp.

Concept Reference Code: B91ROB01NAUS**Name Used in Concept Reference:** *Cyprinella venusta***Taxonomic Comments:**

Kristmundsdottir and Gold (1996) used mtDNA restriction site analysis to study systematics and biogeography and identified four major mtDNA-based phylogeographic clades: Chocktawatchee, Apalachicola, Mobile, and Western (four lineages, Texas to Mississippi). They found that mtDNA phylogeographic subdivision within *C. venusta* is not strictly concordant with geographic subdivisions (ranges) of the three nominal subspecies (*venusta*, *cercostigma*, and *stigmatura*); taxonomic revision may be warranted, but further study is needed. This species was removed from genus *Notropis* and placed in genus (formerly subgenus) *Cyprinella* by Mayden (1989); this change was adopted in the 1991 AFS checklist (Robins et al. 1991). See Mayden (1989) for synonymy.

Conservation Status**NatureServe Status****Global Status:** G5**Global Status Last Reviewed:** 20Jun2007**Global Status Last Changed:** 18Sep1996

Rounded Global Status: G5 - Secure**Nation:** United States**National Status:** N5

U.S. & Canada State/Province Status	
United States	Alabama (S5), Arizona (SNA), Arkansas (S4), Florida (SNR), Georgia (S4), Illinois (S1), Kentucky (S3), Louisiana (S5), Mississippi (S5), Missouri (SNR), Nevada (SNA), Oklahoma (S5), Tennessee (S5), Texas (S5)

Other Statuses

NatureServe Conservation Status Factors

Global Abundance: 100,000 to >1,000,000 individuals**Global Abundance Comments:**

Adult population size is unknown but certainly exceeds 100,000 and presumably exceeds 1,000,000. This is one of the most abundant minnows in Alabama (Boschung and Mayden 2004), Louisiana, and Texas (Lee et al. 1980).

Estimated Number of Element Occurrences:81 to >300

Estimated Number of Element Occurrences Comments:This species is represented by a very large number of occurrences (subpopulations) (e.g., see map in Lee et al. 1980). It is one of the most ubiquitous minnows in Alabama (Boschung and Mayden 2004).

Global Short Term Trend:

Stable (unchanged or within +/- 10% fluctuation in population, range, area occupied, and/or number or condition of occurrences)

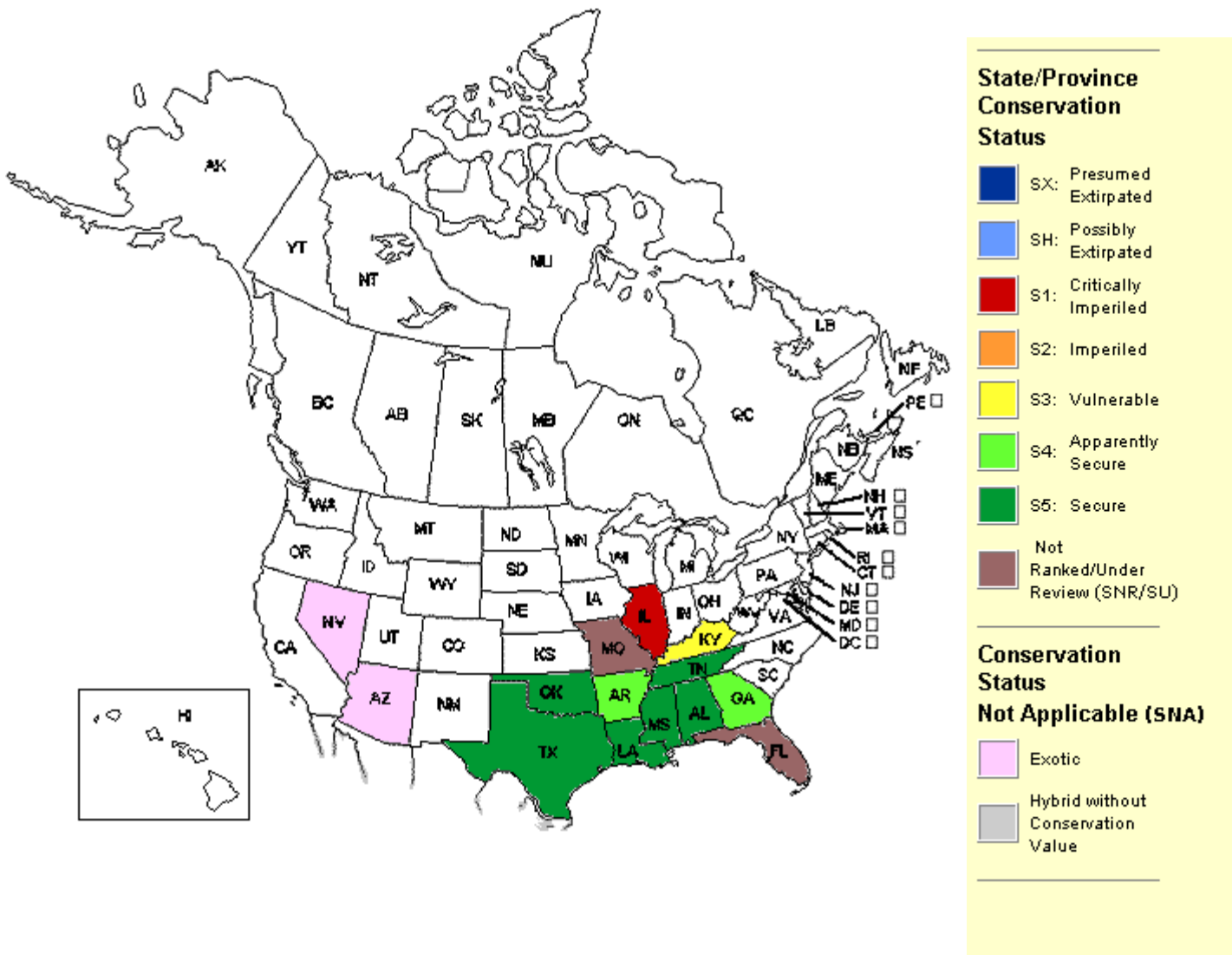
Global Short Term Trend Comments:

In Louisiana, after the 1960s and early 1970s, blacktail shiners disappeared from several locations and abundance declined in other sites coincident with a range expansion and abundance increase in *Cyprinella lutrensis* (Douglas and Jordan 2002). Overall, however, extent of occurrence, area of occupancy, number of subpopulations, and population size probably are relatively stable or declining at a rate of less than 10% over 10 years or three generations.

Global Long Term Trend: Relatively stable (+/- 25% change)**Degree of Threat:** Localized substantial threat**Threat Scope:** Low**Threat Severity:**Moderate**Threat Immediacy:** High**Threats:**

Overall, this species faces no major threats. In Louisiana, habitat changes associated with flood control projects (e.g., channelization) apparently led to increases in *C. lutrensis* populations and declines and extirpations of *C. venusta* populations (Douglas and Jordan 2002).

Distribution**U.S. States and Canadian Provinces**



Endemism: endemic to a single nation

U.S. & Canada State/Province Distribution	
United States	AL, AR, AZ, FL, GA, IL, KY, LA, MO, MS, NV, OK, TN, TX

Range Map

No map available.

Global Range: 200,000-2,500,000 square km (about 80,000-1,000,000 square miles)

Global Range Comments:

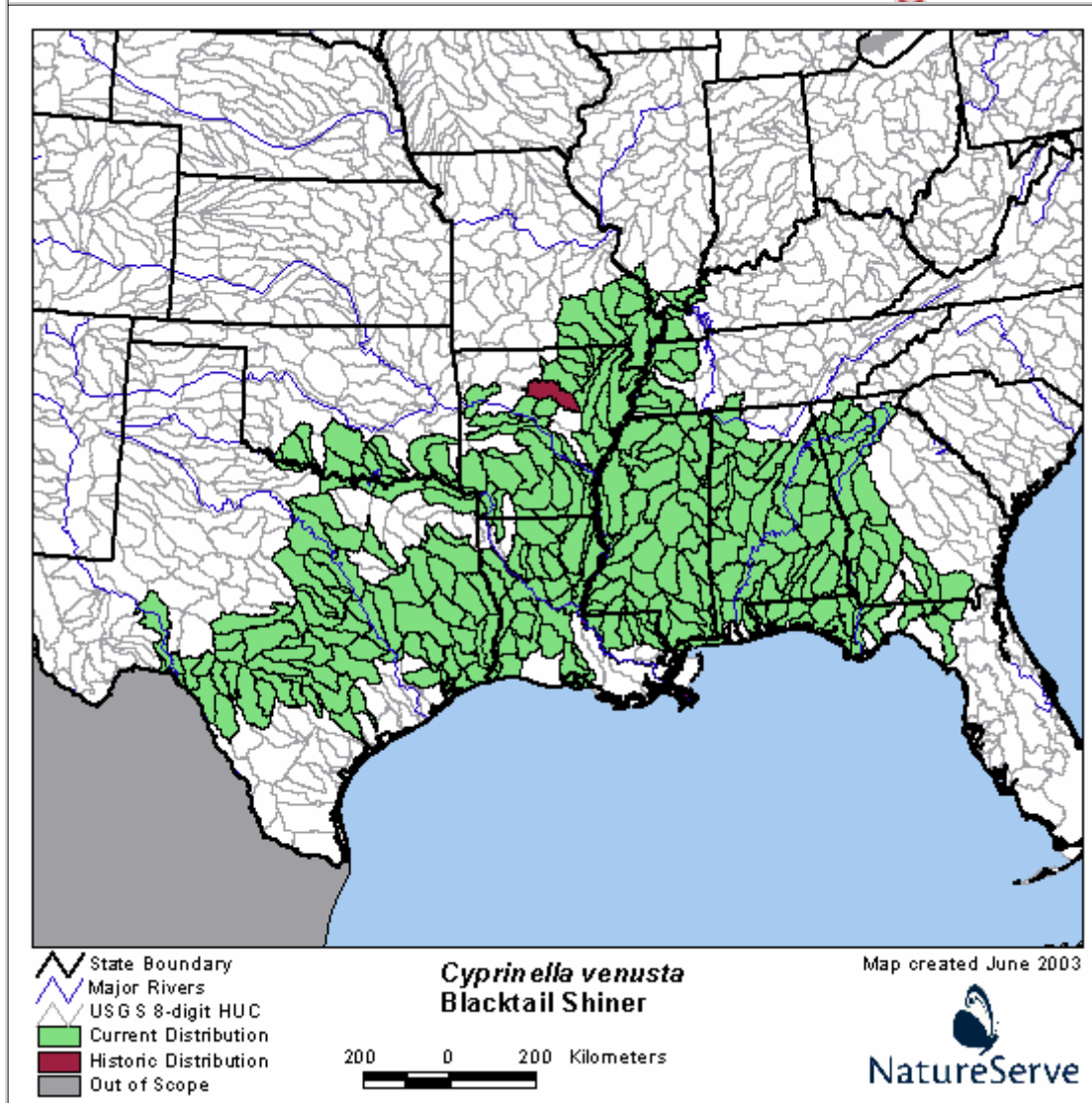
The range extends from the Rio Grande basin, Texas, to the Suwannee River drainage, Florida and Georgia, and extends north in the Mississippi River basin to southern Oklahoma, southeastern Missouri, southern Illinois, and western and southern Tennessee (Lee et al. 1980).

U.S. Distribution by County (based on available natural heritage records) ?	
State	County Name (FIPS Code)
AL	Walker (01127), Winston (01133)
KY	Ballard (21007), Carlisle (21039), Fulton (21075), Graves (21083), Hickman (21105), McCracken (21145)

U.S. Distribution by Watershed (based on available natural heritage records) ?	
Watershed Region ?	Watershed Name (Watershed Code)

03	Mulberry (03160109), Sipse Fork (03160110)
05	Lower Ohio (05140206)
08	Lower Mississippi-Memphis (08010100), Bayou De Chien-Mayfield (08010201), Obion (08010202)

U.S. Distribution by Watershed (based on multiple information sources)



Ecology & Life History

Reproduction Comments:

In southeastern Mississippi, spawns late March-early October (mainly April-August) at 19-29 C (Heins and Dorsett 1986). Spawns June-August in Missouri. Males defend spawning territories. Produces sounds used in species recognition.

Habitat Type: Freshwater

Non-Migrant: N

Locally Migrant: N

Long Distance Migrant: N

Riverine Habitat(s): High gradient, MEDIUM RIVER, Moderate gradient, Pool

Habitat Comments:

This fish is most common in pools and runs of clear, sandy-bottomed, small to medium rivers, typically in areas with sparse vegetation and strong current, but upland populations occur in creeks over substrates with more gravel and rubble (Lee et al. 1980, Page and Burr 1991). Populations in the western part of the range are often in turbid water. Eggs are deposited in crevices.

Length: 15 centimeters

Economic Attributes**Management Summary****Population/Occurrence Delineation**

Group Name: SMALL CYPRINIDS

Use Class: Not applicable

Minimum Criteria for an Occurrence:

Occurrences are based on evidence of historical presence, or current and likely recurring presence, at a given location. Such evidence minimally includes collection or reliable observation and documentation of one or more individuals (including eggs and larvae) in appropriate habitat.

Separation Barriers:

Dam lacking a suitable fishway; high waterfall; upland habitat. For some species (e.g., slender chub), an impoundment may constitute a barrier. For others (e.g., flame chub) a stream larger than 4th order may be a barrier.

Separation Distance for Unsuitable Habitat: 10 km

Separation Distance for Suitable Habitat: 10 km

Separation Justification:

Data on dispersal and other movements generally are not available. In some species, individuals may migrate variable distances between spawning areas and nonspawning habitats.

Separation distances (in aquatic kilometers) for cyprinids are arbitrary but reflect the presumption that movements and appropriate separation distances generally should increase with fish size. Hence small, medium, and large cyprinids, respectively, have increasingly large separation distances. Separation distance reflects the likely low probability that two occupied locations separated by less than several kilometers of aquatic habitat would represent truly independent populations over the long term.

Because of the difficulty in defining suitable versus unsuitable habitat, especially with respect to dispersal, and to simplify the delineation of occurrences, a single separation distance is used regardless of habitat quality.

Occupied locations that are separated by a gap of 10 km or more of any aquatic habitat that is not known to be occupied represent different occurrences. However, it is important to evaluate seasonal changes in habitat to ensure that an occupied habitat occurrence for a particular population does not artificially separate spawning areas and nonspawning areas as different occurrences simply because there have been no collections/observations in an intervening area that may exceed the separation distance.

Date: 21Sep2004

Author: Hammerson, G.

Population/Occurrence Viability**U.S. Invasive Species Impact Rank (I-Rank)****Authors/Contributors**

NatureServe Conservation Status Factors Edition Date: 20Jun2007

NatureServe Conservation Status Factors Author: Hammerson, G.

Element Ecology & Life History Edition Date: 20Jun2007

Element Ecology & Life History Author(s): Hammerson, G.

Zoological data developed by NatureServe and its network of natural heritage programs (see [Local Programs](#)) and other contributors and cooperators (see [Sources](#)).

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Note: This report was printed on **August 18, 2008**

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Citation for data on website including Watershed and State Distribution maps:

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Citation for Bird Range Maps of North America:

Ridgely, R.S., T.F. Allnutt, T. Brooks, D.K. McNicol, D.W. Mehlman, B.E. Young, and J.R. Zook. 2003. Digital Distribution Maps of the Birds of the Western Hemisphere, version 1.0. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia, USA.

Acknowledgement Statement for Bird Range Maps of North America:

"Data provided by NatureServe in collaboration with Robert Ridgely, James Zook, The Nature Conservancy - Migratory Bird Program, Conservation International - CABS, World Wildlife Fund - US, and Environment Canada - WILDSPACE."

Citation for Mammal Range Maps of North America:

Patterson, B.D., G. Ceballos, W. Sechrest, M.F. Tognelli, T. Brooks, L. Luna, P. Ortega, I. Salazar, and B.E. Young. 2003. Digital Distribution Maps of the Mammals of the Western Hemisphere, version 1.0. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia, USA.

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NOTE: Full metadata for the Bird Range Maps of North America is available at:

<http://www.natureserve.org/library/birdDistributionmapsmetadatav1.pdf>.

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