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***Menidia beryllina*** - (Cope, 1867)

Inland Silverside

**Unique Identifier:** ELEMENT\_GLOBAL.2.105319

**Element Code:** AFCND02010

**Informal Taxonomy:** Animals, Vertebrates - Fishes - Bony Fishes - Other Bony Fishes



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Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family	Genus
Animalia	Craniata	Actinopterygii	Atheriniformes	Atherinopsidae	Menidia

**Check this box to expand all report sections:**

Concept Reference ?

Conservation Status ?

Distribution ?

## Ecology & Life History

**Reproduction Comments:** Spawning protracted; multiple peaks suggested. Most spawn and die their 2nd summer of life; eggs hatch in 4-30 days at 13-34 C. Female may produce eggs throughout breeding season. Adult life span about 16 months (few survive 2nd winter). In northwestern Florida, most reproduction occurred February-April; some young-of-year matured in July-September and spawned (Copeia 1992:53-61).

### Ecology Comments

Schools may number in the tens of thousands.

**Habitat Type:** Freshwater

**Non-Migrant:** N

**Locally Migrant:** N

**Long Distance Migrant:** N

[Collapse](#)

**Estuarine Habitat(s):** Bay/sound, Lagoon, River mouth/tidal river

**Riverine Habitat(s):** BIG RIVER, CREEK, Low gradient, MEDIUM RIVER

**Lacustrine Habitat(s):** Shallow water

[Collapse](#)

**Habitat Comments:** Coastal and freshwater habitats. Moderate to highly alkaline and euryhaline waters. Moves far up streams and rivers, especially in southern part of range. In fresh water, usually swims at surface of clear quiet water over sand and gravel bottom. Introduced in ponds, lakes, and reservoirs outside native range. See Weinstein (1986) for habitat suitability index model. Spawns over beds of aquatic vegetation or among emergent vegetation (Moyle 1976). Survival and growth of larvae was greater at salinity of 15 ppt than at 5 or 30 ppt (see Sublette et al. 1990). Some landlocked populations (e.g., where introduced in reservoirs) reproduce in fresh water (Page and Burr 1991).

**Adult Food Habits:** Invertivore

**Immature Food Habits:** Invertivore

**Food Comments:** Eats mainly copepods, mysids, isopods, amphipods, and insects, especially chironomids. In California, cladocerans dominate the daytime diet while amphipods and insects larvae dominate at night; feeding peaks occur just after daybreak & just before dusk.

**Phenology Comments:** Feeding mainly crepuscular; also reported as mainly diurnal with some night feeding.

**Length:** 13 centimeters

## Economic Attributes

**Economic Comments:** Could serve as useful biological control agent for mosquitoes in water with salinities of 0-25 ppt (Middaugh et al. 1985). In Oklahoma and Texas, serves as forage for various game fishes, such as young white and largemouth bass and young and adult longnose gar (see Sublette et al. 1990). Has been used in carcinogenesis testing (Metcalfe 1989).

## Management Summary

## Population/Occurrence Delineation



**Group Name:** SILVERSIDES (ATHERINIDS)

**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.

**Separation Distance for Unsuitable Habitat:** 10 km

**Separation Distance for Suitable Habitat:** 10 km

**Separation Justification:** Separation distance is arbitrary. 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.

**Date:** 25Jun2001

**Author:** Hammerson, G.

**Population/Occurrence Viability**



**U.S. Invasive Species Impact Rank (I-Rank)**

Not yet  
assessed  
Not yet  
assessed

