

BANDED KOKOPU

Galaxiids

502

Galaxiids are New Zealand's largest group of freshwater fish with 29 species which include inanga (whitebait). They get their name because the patterns on their skin look like a galaxy of stars. They can be found in swamps, drains, rivers, streams and lakes.

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Banded kokopu can climb water falls up to 70m high!

Description

Galaxiids have gold flecked skin but no scales. They are great climbers and able to scale waterfalls because they have ridges on their fins. Banded kokopu get their name because they have vertical bands on their sides and over the back.

Food

Invertebrates like midge, mayfly and mosquito larvae, are an important part of the galaxiids nocturnal diet. They also feed on ants, spiders and beetles that end up in the water course.

Breeding

Banded kokopu lay their eggs in Autumn on the banks of rivers and estuaries amongst grasses that are flooded. When the tide recedes the eggs can sometimes sit out of water for two weeks until the next tide. The hatched larvae are then carried out to sea. After 4-5 months the developed juveniles return to rivers and move upstream to live in freshwater.