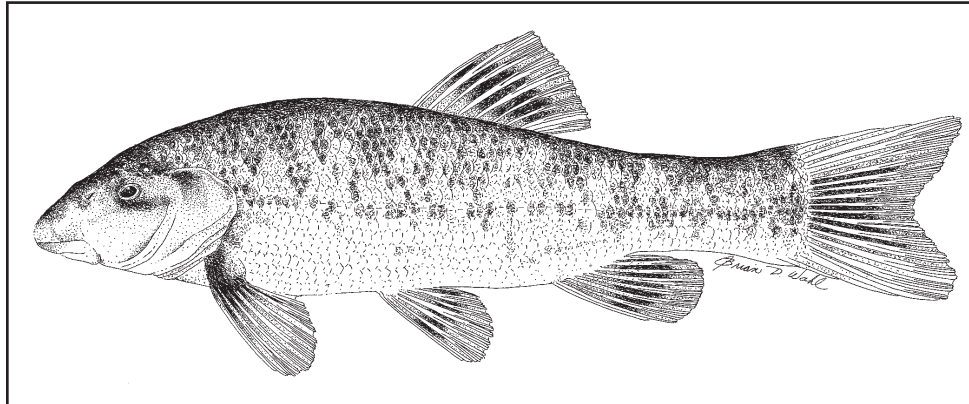


Life History Notes

Stoneroller

Scientific Name: *Campostoma anomalum*



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Identification:

Stonerollers are moderately stout brownish colored minnows with small eyes and short, rounded fins. The snout is bluntly rounded and projects beyond the nearly horizontal mouth.

Range and Habitat:

The stoneroller is found throughout Ohio in moderate to high gradient streams with sandy to gravely substrate. They prefer riffle areas where riffles and pools alternate in rapid succession. However, they are very tolerant and can survive in almost any stream with a food supply.

Life History:

Stonerollers spawn between March and late-May. Males dig spawning pits in shallow, swift riffles and occasionally in quiet pools. Males construct the pits by driving their heads into the gravel. They transport gravel from the pits by nudging stones out with their snout, hence

the name stoneroller, or by transporting them with their mouth. Males compete aggressively for favored spawning areas. Females remain in deeper water near the spawning pits and enter the pits individually or in groups to deposit eggs. The adhesive eggs become lodged in the gravel and are abandoned prior to hatching. Most stonerollers become sexually mature in their second or third summer. Adults feed on algae and bottom ooze that they scrape from rocks, logs, and other submerged objects with the spade-like extension of their lower jaw.

Adult Size:

The average stoneroller is 3 to 6.5 inches in length.

Fishing Methods:

Stonerollers are not sought by anglers. However, they do make a good bait minnow, but are difficult to culture.