

fringed darter *Etheostoma crossopterum*

Kingdom: Animalia

Division/Phylum: Chordata

Class: Osteichthyes

Order: Perciformes

Family: Percidae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

The second dorsal fin of the breeding male fringed darter has a white edge. There are three branches per fin ray with the third branch much longer than the second. The typical number of rays is 12-13. There are usually nine dorsal spines. This species may attain a length of up to four inches.

BEHAVIORS

The fringed darter is present in the streams of the Cache River basin in southern Illinois where it lives in rocky pools and riffles. Small crustaceans and insects comprise its diet.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

rivers and streams

Woodland Habitats

none

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none

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