

# spring cavefish

## *Forbesichthys agassizii*

Kingdom: Animalia  
Phylum: Chordata  
Class: Actinopterygii  
Order: Percopsiformes  
Family: Amblyopsidae

### ILLINOIS STATUS

common, nonnative

### FEATURES

The spring cavefish is a small (less than three and one-half inches), uniformly grey to black fish with small eyes, small scales, and a salamander-like appearance.

### BEHAVIORS

The spring cavefish is troglophilic (occurring within caves, but not exclusively) and inhabits shallow, densely vegetated water in springs and spring-fed streams. They are active primarily after dark and their diet consists mostly of amphipods. It has been suggested their small eyes function only as a light-sensory organ and that they do not see images. In Illinois, they are found in caves near the Mississippi River.

### ILLINOIS RANGE



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**Aquatic Habitats**

rivers and streams

**Woodland Habitats**

none

**Prairie and Edge Habitats**

none