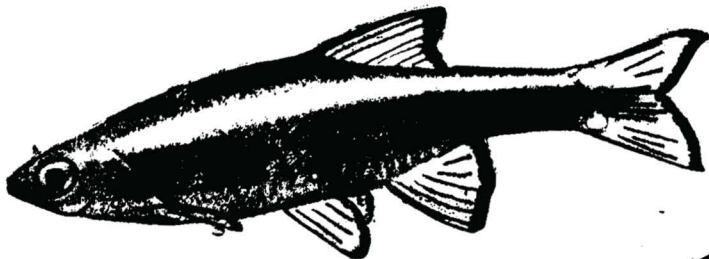


SHINERS

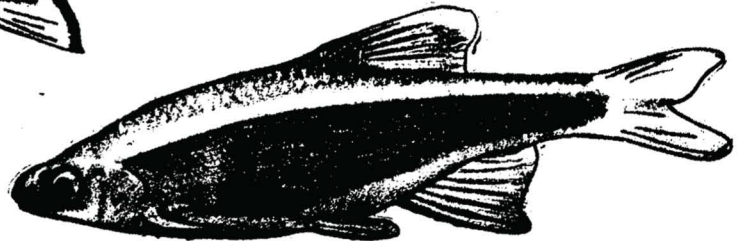
by DICK STOBER

Notropis euryzonus are found in limited areas of Alabama, Florida and Georgia. The Broadstripe shiner can be observed in fairly large numbers swimming with N. signipinnis and N. roseipinnis at Millers' Park, Mobile county in a small tributary of the Escatawpa River, part of the Pascagoula River system. A striking color variation may be caught in the Choctawatchee River drainage near Valparaiso, Florida. "Freshwater Fishes of Alabama" by William F. Smith-Vaniz indicates that the main distribution of this species is the Chattahoochee River system below the fall line.

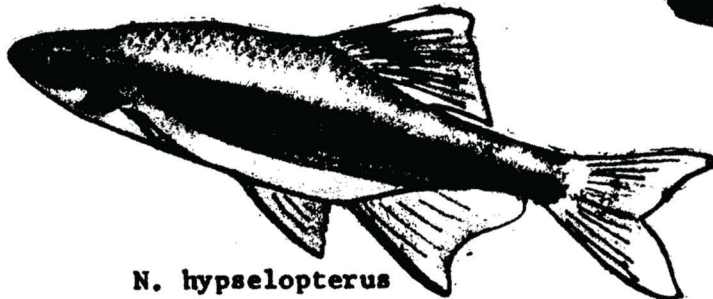
The Broadstripe shiner is one of four closely related deep bodied shiners which are indigenous to the Southeast. They all are very attractive and have great possibilities for adaption to the aquarium hobby. Besides being attractive they spawn readily in an aquarium, eat dry foods, and in general are easy to maintain. I believe that selective breeding of these species could produce pleasing results.



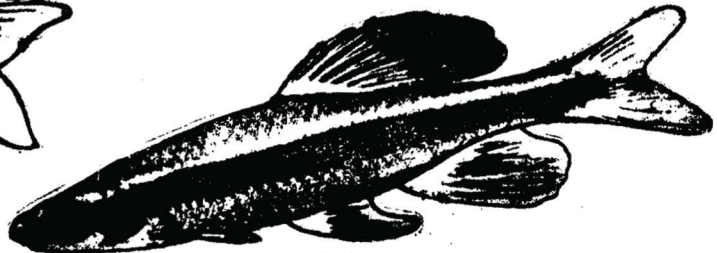
N. signipinnis



N. euryzonus



N. hypselopterus



N. welaka

When exposed to daylight in a sein or net the broad body stripe of the *N. euryzonus* glistens like gun metal. For this reason some have called them *Metallicus*. Of the four species, the *N. euryzonus* seems to have the deepest body and the broadest stripe. The body stripe also has more of a bluish hue to it, especially when frightened or for some other reason they temporarily lose their color.

The variation from the Choctawatchee River drainage does not appear to grow to be as large as the ones from the Pascagoula system. There has been some doubt in my mind whether this species is a variety of *N. euryzonus* or *N. hypselopterus*. Perhaps it may be a new species altogether, at any rate I sent a pair to Auburn University for positive identification. The basic pattern and fin configuration appear to be the same except that the coloration of the Choctawatchee

Notropis are far more richer. In the clear water they can be observed swimming , facing the current and maintaining themselves in the same location while occasionally darting back and forth to feed or to flirt with the opposite sex.

Chocta males are much easier to distinguish since their anal fins are more brightly colored. The caudal and caudal peduncle areas are also more brilliantly colored. Even when one first observes these fish in their natural habitat from above it is quite easy to distinguish the males. Some are more intense in coloration than others and for this reason I believe that through selective breeding an even more outstanding color variation can be developed.

The Broadstripe has the typical broad lateral band which starts at the lower lip, breaks for the eye, and extends to the base of the caudal where it is straddled by two spots of increased color intensity. The lateral stripe is not a parallelogram, the top deliniation is fairly straight following the lateral line and the lower edge follows the bottom contour of the fish. Directly above this stripe is a rather thin rainbow like band with its spectrum ranging from ice blue irredescence to an irredescent orange. This band appears to change color under different lighting conditions. Especially brilliant is the area above the lateral line following the dorsal and extending to the base of the caudal. The irredescence continues through the eye. This attribute can be used to distinguish Broadstripe females from Sailfin females when in mixed company, the band being somewhat lighter and brighter on the hypselopterus.

As far as spawning habits are concerned they appear to be identical to those of the Sailfin shiner described earlier. It has been my experience that green water is an important element in the diet of the fry.
