

Threatened fishes of the world: *Valencia hispanica* (Valenciennes, 1846) (Valenciidae)

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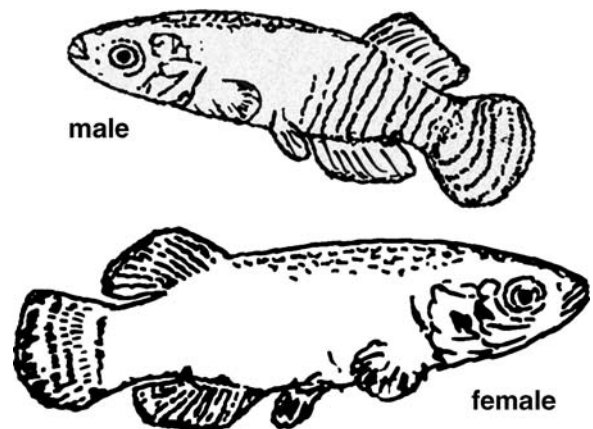
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Common names: Valencia toothcarp; Samaruc (Spanish). *Conservation status:* CR A2ace (IUCN 2008); EN B1+2abcde (Spanish Red List; Doadrio 2002). *Identification:* Adult males show a grey-blue coloration with narrow dark transversal bars, borders of the pectoral and caudal fins are yellow to orange (Kottelat and Freyhof 2007). Males (total length < 67 mm) are smaller than females (total length < 71 mm) (Caiola et al. 2001a). Picture by F.J. Oliva-Paterna. *Distribution:* It is restricted to the eastern Spanish coastline where independent conservation units were established (Fernández-Pedrosa et al. 1995; Perdices et al. 1996). *Abundance:* Only ten wild populations exist, no more than five are in good conservation status (Caiola 2006). *Ecology:* *V.*

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hispanica inhabits small coastal freshwater systems locally known as “ullals”. Exceptionally, it may live in some wetlands like coastal lagoons and swamps. The species is characterized by slow growth and high longevity (4+ females; 3+ males) when compared to other Cyprinodontiformes (Caiola et al. 2001a). It has a narrow trophic spectrum (gammarids, midges and isopods) (Caiola et al. 2001b; Caiola and De Sostoa 2002). *Reproductive strategy:* Low reproductive effort, relatively late maturity and multiple spawning between April and July. Current threats include punctuated distribution, habitat loss, water pollution and the introduction of exotic

species, mainly *Gambusia holbrooki* (Rincón et al. 2002; Caiola and De Sostoa 2005). *Conservation action*: *V. hispanica* is included in The Bern Convention and in the European Directive (1992/43/EEC). Three European action programmes for the creation of a reserve network were developed. Since 1993, more than 100 000 individuals have been re-introduced in Valencian region (Jiménez et al. 2002) and 35.000 specimens were re-introduced in the Ebro delta (Catalonian region). *Recommendations*: (1) New viable wild populations must be re-established in the native range; (2) Protection of Refugium populations (sanctuaries); (3) Educational and information programmes (Planelles 1999).

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