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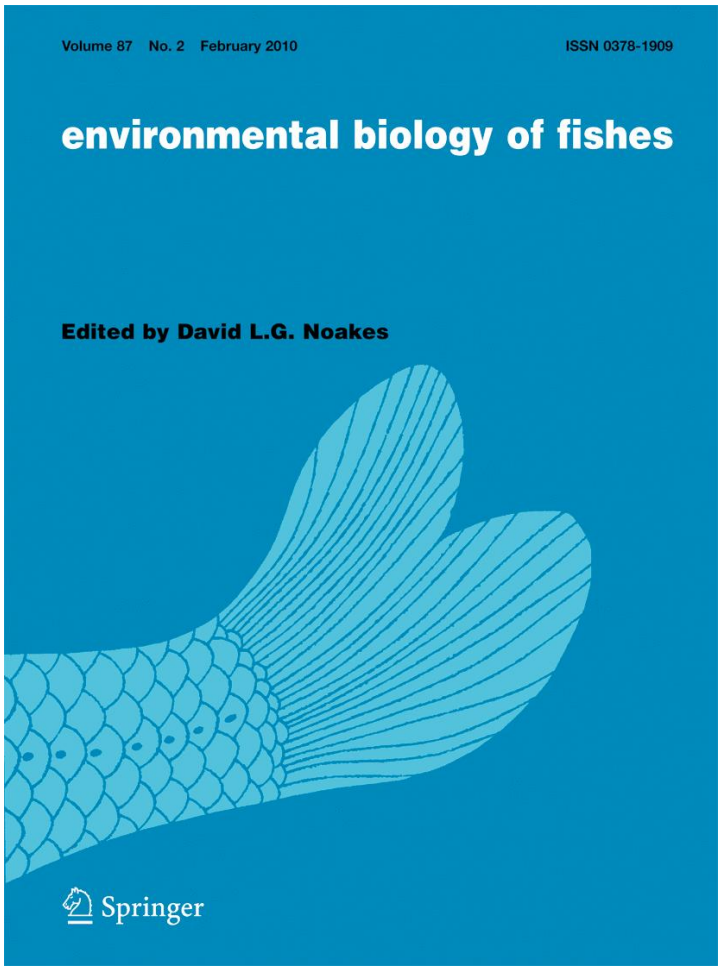

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Threatened fishes of the world: *Squalius torgalensis* (Coelho, Bogutskaya, Rodrigues & Collares-Pereira, 1998) (Cyprinidae)

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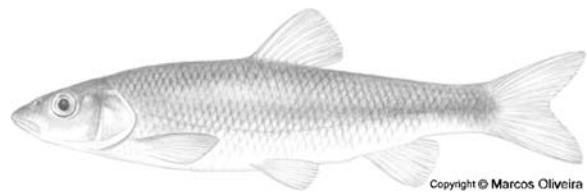
Common name: Escalo do Mira (Portuguese). *Conservation status*: This species is considered to be Critically Endangered according to the Portuguese Red Data Book (Cabral et al. 2005). *Identification*: This small cyprinid reaches maximum standard length of 118 mm and carries 36–41 canaliculate scales on the lateral line, seven to nine scales above the lateral line, 1.5–2.5 scales below the lateral line, seven to nine dorsal fin rays and six to eight anal fin rays. Pharyngeal teeth are two-rowed (2.5–5.2); vertebral formulae are 21 + 16, 20 + 17 or, rarely 20 + 16; preopercular-mandibular cephalic sensory canal does not communicate with infraorbital canal; and fourth and fifth infraorbitals are considerably large and often fused (Coelho et al. 1998). *Distribution*: This species is endemic to Portugal and is restricted to the Mira river basin (~1,600 km^2). Although geographically close to its sister species, *Squalius aradensis*, these two species were isolated from each other around 5.13 MYA due the uplift of the Caldeirão Mountains (Sousa-Santos et al. 2007). *Abundance*: The number of mature individuals was estimated at greater than 10,000, following a reduction in population size of approximately 30% over the last 15 years (Cabral et al. 2005). *Habitat and ecology*: Inhabits a typically Mediterranean river, with cyclic winter floods and severe summer droughts, occurring both in pools and in runs (Magalhães et al. 2002). *Reproduction*: Reaches maturity at age 2 and spawns in March-June (Magalhães et al. 2003). *Threats*: Habitat degradation, dams, water scarcity, loss of water quality and proliferation of introduced exotic species. *Conservation*: Some efforts are being conducted to the *ex situ* reproduction of this species. *Conservation recommendations*: Habitat restoration of some stretches followed by restocking with fish produced in *ex-situ* breeding programmes.



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