

# Banded kokopu

## *Galaxias fasciatus*

Native

Not threatened

Photos: Bruno David

One of five Galaxiid species found in the whitebait run. At the whitebait stage, banded kokopu are excellent 'climbers' often scaling waterfalls in excess of 20 m in height. Narrow, pale vertical bands along the side of mature fish are its most characteristic feature. As juveniles, banded kokopu can be hard to distinguish from giant kokopu. One often helpful distinction at the juvenile stage is that the bands in banded kokopu continue over the back behind the dorsal fin whereas in giant kokopu this does not occur.

Banded kokopu can sometimes reach high abundances in very small streams. They typically prefer feeding in pools. Adults are typically nocturnal but sometimes can be seen during the day on warm summer days if undisturbed. These fish prefer cooler streams with good overhead canopy. Typical size of an adult banded kokopu is 200mm. Some have been known to grow to 260mm or more.

