

Cran's bully

Gobiomorphus basalis

Native

Not threatened

Photo: Bruno David

Widely distributed through the North Island except in the Bay of Plenty region. Of the seven bully species in NZ it is most often confused with the common and upland bully. Adult males are easily distinguishable as the edge of their dorsal fin is bright orange.

Unlike many other native fish which require access to the sea to complete their lifecycle, cran's bully larvae are able to grow within the stream without being carried downstream to the sea. Therefore, this species is generally found far inland as no ocean migration is necessary.

Cran's bullies are solitary and prefer boulder / cobble streams or weedy spring fed systems where they feed on a variety of stream insects. Females lay several hundred eggs on the bottom of large rock which are guarded by the males.

