

Halloween Darter_RS20

Dylan Wolfe

Collection Location: 550 Rock Springs Rd, Lawrenceville, GA 30043

Coordinates: (34.0400° N, 84.0209° W)

Shannon Diversity Index

$H' = 1.288584634$

$\text{Var } H' = 0.002451708$



Taxonomic Information

Kingdom: Animalia

Class: Actinopterygii

Family: Percidae

Genus: Percina

Species: *P. crypta*

Morphology

Halloween Darters have cylindrical bodies, males extending at a max standard length of 101 mm and females at 88 mm resembling the Blackbanded darter. Males have orange and dark lateral banding with orange underbelly while females have dark bodies with a yellow green tint underbelly. Lateral banding may be tended with iridescent green and some variations of the back include dark amber orange, with black saddles, to black with no saddles. Both male and female may have iridescent green or gold speckling on bodies or head. They can be distinguished from other darters due to their slightly connective branchiostegal membranes, the preopercle not serrated, and usually having seven saddle-shaped colored bands with yellow or orange bands near the edge of their first dorsal fins.

Ecology Of Species

Distribution & Habitat: Halloween darters are found only in the watershed of the Apalachicola River within the Flint and Chattahoochee Rivers. In the Chattahoochee river basin, it occurs in northeast Georgia above Lake Lanier in the Chattahoochee and Chestatee Rivers and the Sautee and Uchee Creeks. Typically found in flowing rivers over small and medium sized gravel, cobble, or rock bottoms where hornleaf riverweed grow.

Reproduction: The Halloween darter reproduction cycles tend to begin in the spring around the months of April and May. The eggs are approximately 1.5mm in diameter with a clutch size increasing by female body size and usually consisting of 23-335 eggs. Most are grown to adult size by October and reach sexual maturity at one year old with a lifespan at a maximum of three years.

Species Interactions: Halloween darters are insectivorous, eating plants and animals, consuming mayfly nymphs and other insect larvae such as midges, black flies, and caddisflies. The Halloween darter is a host species for the endangered freshwater gulf moccasinshell. These mussels release larvae that lodge into the gills of suitable fish to develop and the Halloween darter is one of the four species observed to provide successful metamorphosis of the larvae into juveniles. They are also a moderately successful host to the purple bankclimber mussel as well.

Sequence

GGATGTCTATCTATTTTTGGTTGCTTGACCCGGAATAGTGGGCACCGGCCTAAGCTTACTCATAACANAGCAGAGCT
AATGCAACCCGGCGCACTCCTCGGAGACGACCAAATGTATAACGTTATTGTTACAGCACACGCCTTTGTAATAATT
TTCTTTATAGCGATACCAATTATGATTGGGGGCTTTGGAACTGGCTGGAGCCTCTAATGATTGGTGCCCCGACA
TGGTATTTCTCGGATGAATAACATGAGCTTCTGACTATTGCCCCCTTTTCCTGCTACTTCTTGCTCCTCTGGAG
TATAAGCAGGAGCTGGAACCGGATGAACCGTCTACCCGCCCTGGCTGGAACTTAGCACACGACGGGGCATCCG
TTGACTTAACTATCTTCTCCCTGCATATGGCAGGGGTTTCTTCGATCCTAGGGGCCATTAATTTTATTACAATA
TTAACATAAAACCCCTGCTATCTCTCAGTACCAAACACCCTTATTCGTGTGAGCCGTTCTAATCACTGCTGTACTTC
TCCTCTTTCCCTCCCGTGCTCGCCGCAGGCATACAATGCTACTCACAGACCGTAACTTAAACACCACTTTCTTTG
ACCCGGCAGGAGGGGGCGACCCTATTCTCTACCAACACTTATTCTGATTCTTCGGTCACCCTGAAGTGTACATAGTG
GGTTTCCTGAAG

References

Halloween darter. (n.d.). Wikipedia. Retrieved April 4, 2024, from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Halloween_darter.