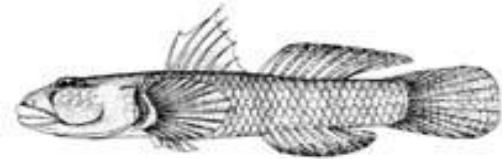
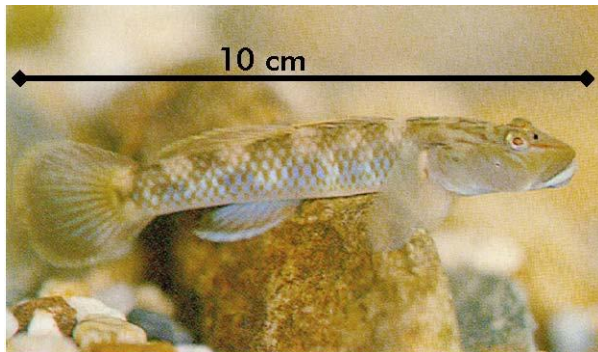


# GOBY ALERT 2009!



Images by Ik Soo Kim from *Illustrated Encyclopedia of fauna and flora of Korea, Vol. 37: Freshwater fishes*

The nonnative Amur goby (*Rhinogobius brunneus*), also known as the orange reed-clinging goby, continues to appear sporadically in western Oregon and Washington waters. The first population detected in North America still occurs in the East Fork Lewis River. Additional specimens have been found in the lower Sandy River, Ramsey Wetland in the Columbia Slough, and the lower Columbia River estuary. **Please watch for this species in other Pacific Northwest waters**, particularly if you are conducting fish surveys. **Note that it has been misidentified as a native sculpin.**

## Distinguishing features:

- Fused pelvic fins, which form a suction-cup structure on the chest of the fish. The pelvic fins of sculpin are separate.
- Red or dark line running from the anterior margin of eye to the tip of its snout on both sides of its head. Native sculpins do not (one species has a spot of pigment at the tip of snout, but not a line connected to the eye)
- Breeding males are very distinctive – fleshy mouths, colorful fins (white margins on anal, dorsal fin) and bodies (red and blue). Otherwise, this species has mottled, cryptic coloration similar to patterns seen on sculpin.
- Juveniles look very similar to darters.
- Body length up to 10 cm.
- Large mouths
- Perch on bottom substrate
- Some populations are amphidromous, spending several months in brackish/marine water before returning to freshwater to live as adults.

## If you find this fish:

- Document where/when/etc.
- Take photos if possible
- Collect/preserve a specimen (freezing is a good option)
- Report to 1-877-STOPANS
- For more info, contact Tim Counihan, USGS 509-538-2299, ext. 281 [tcounihan@usgs.gov](mailto:tcounihan@usgs.gov)

More information at <http://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/FactSheet.asp?speciesID=2612>