

# fringed darter

## *Etheostoma crossopterum*

### FEATURES

The second dorsal fin of the breeding male fringed darter has a white edge. There are three branches per fin ray with the third branch much longer than the second. The typical number of rays is 12-13. There are usually nine dorsal spines. This species may attain a length of up to four inches.

### BEHAVIORS

The fringed darter is present in the streams of the Cache River basin in southern Illinois where it lives in rocky pools and riffles. Small crustaceans and insects comprise its diet.

### TAXONOMY

Kingdom: Animalia  
Phylum: Chordata  
Class: Actinopterygii  
Order: Perciformes  
Family: Percidae

### ILLINOIS STATUS

common, native

### ILLINOIS RANGE



female

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male

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**Aquatic Habitats**  
rivers and streams

**Woodland Habitats**  
none

**Prairie and Edge Habitats**  
none