

Prosopium coulterii (Eigenmann & Eigenmann, 1892)

pygmy whitefish

Chignik, Naknek, and Wood river systems in southwestern Alaska and Copper River system in southcentral Alaska; Washington, Montana, British Columbia, and Yukon Territory in Columbia, Fraser, Skeena, Alsek, Peace, Liard, and upper Yukon systems; Lake Superior.

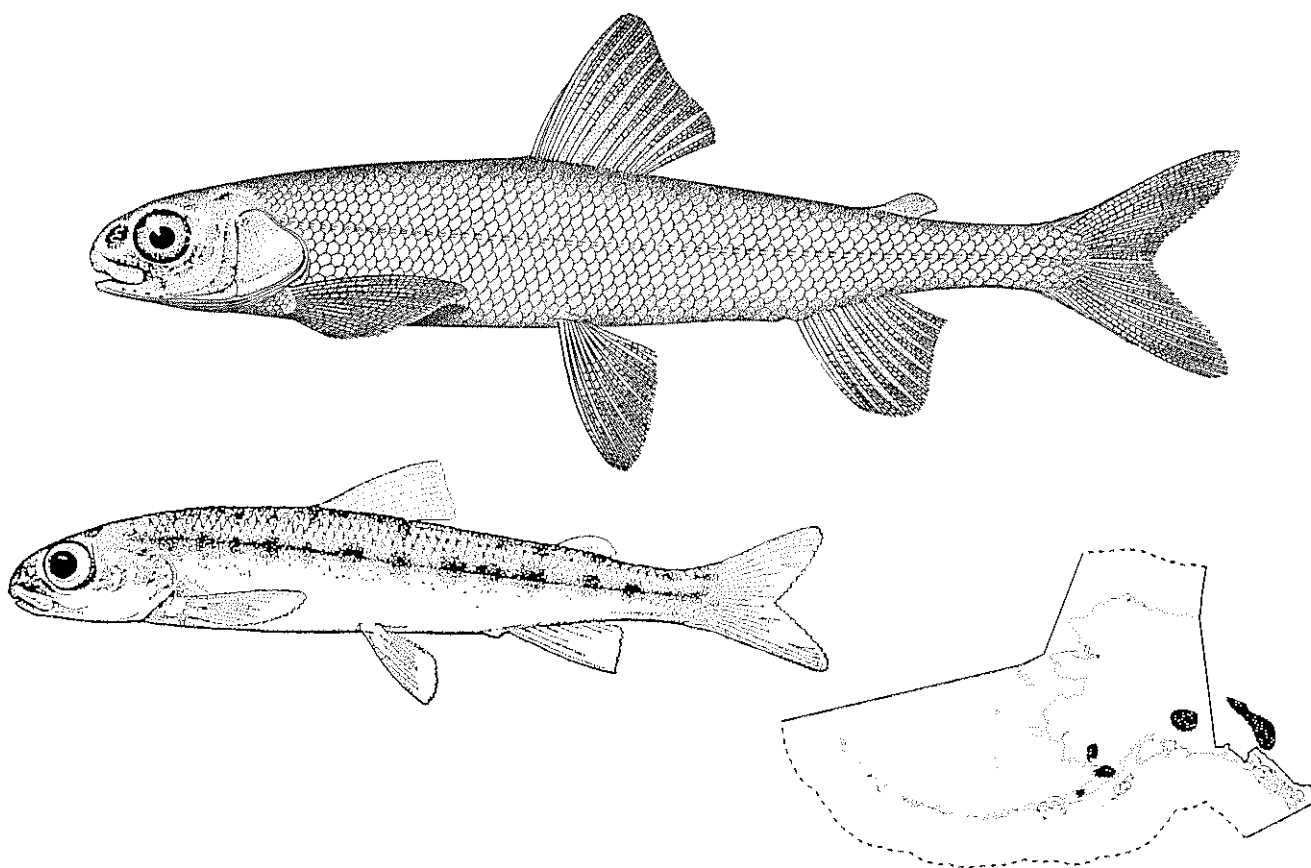
Fresh water; deep lakes and swift, cold streams.

D 10–13; A 10–14; Pec 13–18; Pel 9–11; LLs 50–70; GR 12–21; Br 6–9; PC 13–33; Vert 49–55.

- Brownish, often with green tints, dorsally; silvery white ventrally; juveniles with 7–14 large round black marks along side, persisting in all but the largest adults.
- Body cylindrical; head moderate, about 22% of fork length; dorsal profile behind head not much elevated; snout short; **snout broadly rounded when seen from above**; eye large, diameter usually greater than snout length, 25–30% of head length; **notch present in adipose eyelid** posteroventrally; **single flap between nostril openings**; maxilla

reaching anterior edge of eye in large specimens, farther in smaller ones; mouth subterminal, upper jaw protruding beyond lower jaw.

- Adipose fin present; **pelvic axillary process small**, often rudimentary.
- **Lateral line scales 70 or fewer**; usually 16–20 scales around caudal peduncle.
- Gill rakers short and stout.
- Pyloric caeca fewer than 40.
- Length to 28 cm TL.



Notes & Sources — *Prosopium coulterii* (Eigenmann & Eigenmann, 1892)

Coregonus coulterii Eigenmann & Eigenmann, 1892

Species name was spelled with two *i*'s by Eigenmann and Eigenmann (1892) in the original description of the species. The International Code of Zoological Nomenclature specifies that the original spelling is the correct spelling.

Description: Evermann and Smith 1896:290–291; McPhail and Lindsey 1970:118–121; Scott and Crossman 1973:282–285; Morrow 1980:31–32; Page and Burr 1991:45.

Figures: Upper: Evermann and Smith 1896, pl. 12; lectotype, 109 mm TL, Kicking Horse River at Field, British Columbia. Lower: McPhail and Lindsey 1970:118.

Range: Mapped by Rohde and Platania (in Lee et al. 1980), Morrow (1980), and Page and Burr (1991), but without

collections from Tazlina, Klutina, and Tonsina lakes in the Copper River drainage recorded by Bird and Roberson (1979). The species is probably more widespread but must be specifically looked for. It was not known from Lake Superior until 1955 (R. J. Behnke, pers. comm., 29 Aug. 2000). Heard and Hartman (1965) provided detailed information on distribution and life history of this species in the Naknek River system, Alaska.