

Report 286

June 3, 1935

IDENTIFICATION OF FINE-SCALED DACE FROM MURPHY CREEK, LUCE COUNTY

The Institute has received for reply, through the Department, the following letter:

Gentlemen: Newberry, Michigan 5/26/35
 I am sending enclosed a small fish brought in by Mr. Lloyd Carey of Newberry. He claims it comes from a pool near Murphy river in 47 9 W. and that they run up to 8-9 inches long. (Enclosure)
 As this is a strange species to me I would like to know what it is. If you wish fresher specimen will try to get one for you.
 Yours very truly

Louis Smith (signed)
 District Supervisor

The minnow forwarded is an adult male of the fine-scaled dace (scientific name Pfritte neogaea).

This is a moderately common fish in the more or less bog-like lakes and creeks of northern Michigan. It is one of the 4 species of Michigan minnows with red bellies, the others being the northern and the southern red-bellied dace and the northern dace. These are all small species, of some value as forage fishes—especially the northern red-bellied dace.

The fine-scaled dace does not attain a length of 8-9 inches. Mr. Carey in reporting such a size must have been referring to the northern dace which occasionally nearly reaches the stated length, or the creek chub, which occasionally even exceeds 9 inches.

We would appreciate more exact information as to the location (Section) of the pool where this specimen was taken, so we can add the record to our map showing the distribution of this species.

INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH

Carl L. Hubbs
 Director