

Gambusia Fish

July 18, 2023 • vajiramandravi.com



Why in news?

- The release of these invasive alien fish species has raised concerns about the **potential harm** that will be **sustained by native species** that abound in the state's freshwater bodies.

About Gambusia Fish

- It is also known as **mosquito fish**, and is widely used as a biological agent for controlling mosquito larvae.
- It is **native** to the waters of the **south-eastern United States**.
- It has been a part of **mosquito-control strategies** for over a century in various parts of the world, including India.
- A single full grown fish eats about 100 to 300 mosquito larvae per day.

- Also it has been **part of various malaria control strategies** in India since 1928, including the Urban Malaria Scheme.
- The International Union for Conservation of Nature declared Gambusia one of the 100 worst **invasive alien species** in the world.

Key facts about Malaria

- Malaria is a disease caused by the **Plasmodium parasite**.
- The parasite can be spread to humans **through the bites of infected mosquitoes**.
- **Transmission:**
 - The plasmodium parasite is spread by **female Anopheles mosquitoes**, which are known as “night-biting” mosquitoes because they most commonly bite between dusk and dawn.
- There are many different types of plasmodium parasite, but only 5 types cause malaria in humans.
 - **Plasmodium falciparum:** It is mainly found in Africa, it's the most common type of malaria parasite and is responsible for most malaria deaths worldwide.
 - **Plasmodium vivax :** It is mainly found in Asia and South America, this parasite causes milder symptoms than Plasmodium falciparum, but it can stay in the liver for up to 3 years, which can result in relapses.
 - **Plasmodium ovale:** Fairly uncommon and usually found in West Africa, it can remain in your liver for several years without producing symptoms.
 - **Plasmodium malariae:** This is quite rare and usually only found in Africa.
 - **Plasmodium knowlesi:** This is very rare and found in parts of Southeast Asia.

Q1) What is Plasmodium?

Plasmodium is a genus of parasitic protozoa that causes malaria in humans and other animals. It belongs to the phylum Apicomplexa and is transmitted through the bites of infected female Anopheles mosquitoes.

Source: [Gambusia: This solution could actually be an invasive problem](#)

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/gambusia-fish/>

© Vajiram & Ravi. For personal use only.