

Gambusia Affinis and Poecilia Reticulata

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Gambusia Affinis (Mosquitofish) and Poecilia Reticulata (Guppy) Latest News

Recently, the National Green Tribunal has asked for a response from the Central government on the use of Gambusia Affinis (Mosquitofish) and Poecilia Reticulata (Guppy) as biological mosquito control agents.

About Gambusia Affinis (Mosquitofish)

- It is 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.
- 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**.

- The states which stored and released Mosquitofish were Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Punjab and Andhra Pradesh.

About Poecilia Reticulata (Guppy)

- It is a small **benthopelagic** fish native to Brazil, Guyana, Venezuela and the Caribbean Islands.
- **Habitat:** It is a **non-migratory** fish that can **inhabit both fresh and brackish water**.
- It is a **popular aquarium species** and is also commonly used in genetics research.
- It can occupy a wide range of aquatic habitats and is a threat to native cyprinids and killifishes. It is a carrier of exotic parasites and is believed to play a role in the decline of several threatened and endangered species.
- It has been released in **Maharashtra, Karnataka, Punjab and Odisha**.

Gambusia Affinis (Mosquitofish) and Poecilia Reticulata (Guppy) FAQs

Q1: What is the common name for Gambusia fish?

Ans: Western mosquitofish

Q2: Which fish is used to control mosquito population?

Ans: Gambusia affinis.

Q3: What is Poecilia reticulata known as?

Ans: It is also known as millionfish or the rainbow fish

Source: [DH](#)

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