



Pumpkinseed

(*Lepomis gibbosus*)

Originated in the Northeastern section of North America. Introduced in France in 1877 for recreational fishing and for its ornamental value in aquariums. The population is currently growing.

Description

- Adults vary in size between 8 and 15 cm
- Tall, narrow body shape
- Terminal mouth, small and slightly oblique
- Fins:
 - the tail fin is only slightly forked
 - the two dorsal fins are joined
 - the pectoral fins are long and pointed
 - the anal fin has three sharp spines
- Brilliant colours with touches of green and blue on the back and reddish spots on the sides
- Bright blue lines on the cheeks, particularly of males
- The operculum is wide with a black spot and an adjacent bright red spot in males, that is absent or less pronounced in females
- Males are larger and more brightly coloured than females

Ecology and reproduction

- Habitats include shallow waters in ponds, lakes and rivers with slow currents, fairly warm waters with abundant submergent vegetation
- Sedentary and gregarious species, active during the day, defensive of its territory
- Juveniles consume plankton, adults are carnivorous (insect larvae, crustaceans, worms and small molluscs, fish roe and larvae)
- Sexual maturity is attained at the age of 3 to 4 years (but 1 year is possible):
 - spawning from May to August in shallow waters
 - 1 500 to 3 000 eggs are laid in a nest guarded by the male up to a few days after hatching

Documentation

- Pascal M., Lorvelec O., Vigne J.D. 2006. Invasions biologiques et extinctions : 11 000 ans d'histoire des vertébrés en France. Quae, Versailles. 350 pp.
- Observational data to identify subaquatic fauna and flora (DORIS). For the fact sheet on *Lepomis gibbosus*, see: http://doris.ffessm.fr/fiche2.asp?fiche_numero=287
- Nepveu C. 2002. Les espèces animales et végétales susceptibles de proliférer dans les milieux aquatiques et subaquatiques - Fiches espèces animales (Les espèces exotiques). Agence de l'eau Artois-Picardie. 98 pp.

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Classification

Order	Perciformes
Family	Centrarchidae
Genus	<i>Lepomis</i>
Species	<i>L. gibbosus</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)

